

# THE PINK

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## Cherries v Liverpool big match preview

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## SPITFIRES SOAR



Play-off boost for Eastleigh - see page 6

# MANE MAKES A POINT

## ...but Saints frustrated in bid to qualify for Europe



LEVELLER: Sadio Mane, right, nets against Everton

**SAINTS' Goodison Park hoodoo continued as they battered Everton but only came away with a 1-1 draw.**

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ter chance, twice hitting the woodwork, before Ramiro Funes Mori gave the Toffees a second half lead totally against the run of play.

Sadio Mane quickly equalised but it was frustration for Saints in their hunt for European

football as they failed to get the three points they deserved, extending their run without a win at Goodison Park to 11 matches over a period of more than 18 years.

● Match report and reaction: see pages 4&5

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## Duo could be sidelined for rest of season



INJURY WORRY: Harry Arter

**CHERRIES** boss Eddie Howe is sweating on the fitness of Harry Arter and Adam Smith – with concerns the pair could be ruled out for the rest of the season.

Midfielder Arter has been troubled by a persistent Achilles problem and versatile defender Smith has been trying to play through a hernia.

Arter has played just 45 minutes since sustaining his injury against Southampton in March, while Smith finally succumbed to his

symptoms during the defeat by Manchester City.

Both players had consultations with specialists this week and Howe said: "Harry had an injection so we are waiting to see the results of that to see whether he will participate this season."

"With Adam, it is the type of injury we thought we could manage but we couldn't because he broke down. He has been rested this week."

"We will have to wait and see whether we see him again, I certainly hope

we do. He's got a difficult injury because it is one of those that, upon the specialist's opinion, they don't really want to operate now and don't want to operate in the summer. He has to try to work his way through it and, hopefully, be fit for next season."

Howe said Junior Stanislas was close to a return after recovering from his hamstring injury, although Benik Afobe could be sidelined "maybe a little longer". Sylvain Distin is nursing a back problem.

## Howe out to halt Reds' progress under Klopp

**BOURNEMOUTH** boss Eddie Howe believes Jurgen Klopp is now imprinting his own ideas on Liverpool, but is focused on making sure the Cherries keep up their own performance levels over the final five matches of the season.

The Reds head to the Vitality Stadium on Sunday having secured a place in the semi-finals of the Europa League following a remarkable 4-3 victory over Borussia Dortmund at Anfield with a stoppage-time goal from Dejan Lovren.

German Klopp has slowly transformed the make-up of the Liverpool team since his arrival at the start of October, albeit with sporadic impact in the Barclays Premier League, where they are in eighth place.

Howe has been impressed by Liverpool's development into a new approach, but aims to check that progress on Sunday.

"It was one of those famous European nights at Anfield and the way they came back was really impressive and you can see the work Jurgen Klopp has done with his team," Howe said at a press conference.

"They are a strong side and he is imprinting his ideas on them, you can see that with the way they press and work. That is a hallmark of his Borussia Dortmund team and you can see he has implemented that on his players at Liverpool."

"I think we will possibly see a different team (selection on Sunday) because they might rotate their side. They have some big games to come."

"We will anticipate a hard-working and full of energy Liverpool team. You can't predict them too much, we have to focus on what we are going to do."

Bournemouth are all but secure of a second season in the Premier League after a win at



Cherries manager Eddie Howe and, inset, Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp

bottom club Aston Villa moved them onto 41 points.

Howe, though, has no intentions of letting anyone's work-rate drop.

He said: "The media are so forceful these days that the players will have read 'we are safe' etc, the main thing for me is we focus on our performance, give our very best and give our supporters what we want."

"I want us to give our very best and give the supporters

what they want. "When you get to this stage, you're looking at individual games and trying to get the maximum from them. We are trying to enjoy them and learn from them."

"I am not going to say we are safe, we have still got five games to play, some big games for the football club, some great games against the teams that are the bigger names in the division, so we want to do ourselves proud."

Striker Callum Wilson made

a welcome return from six months out with an anterior cruciate ligament injury when he made a late substitute appearance at Villa Park.

Howe will take things slowly with the 24-year-old, who had scored five goals before his setback.

"It was great to be able to write his name on the team-sheet. It gave everyone a lift, but we need to keep a close eye on him," said Howe.



NEW GOAL: Tommy Elphick

## Elphick wants Cherries to better their "greatest achievement"

**CAPTAIN** Tommy Elphick says Bournemouth have already set sights on bettering their "greatest achievement" of securing Barclays Premier League status for another campaign in the elite.

The Cherries host Liverpool on Sunday sitting in 11th place, on 41 points, after winning at bottom club Aston Villa.

Barring a miraculous run from one of the relegation battlers coupled with a string of Bournemouth defeats, that should already be more than enough to give Eddie Howe's well-worked squad another crack at the top flight.

Defender Elphick, who has just returned from four-and-a-half months out following an ankle injury, believes the way the south-coast club have approached the campaign is testament to a remarkable transition from near liquidation through promotion up from League One.

"The manager quickly reminds us of where we have come from and what got us to where we are, that is hard work and togetherness," Elphick said at a press conference broadcast on the club's official website.

"We have to show plenty of that to win as many games as possible between now and the end of the season, because there are some really tough matches coming up."

"We set a target ourselves at the start of the season to be safe by this stage because we

have got a lot of real tough games in the final run.

"We are always looking forward to try to break barriers and set new markers; we have done that by reaching 41 points."

Elphick added: "This is by far the greatest achievement we have had to date, when you look at the teams we have been coming up against, the financial power of some of them that we have beaten, what we have done in the setbacks we have had with so many injuries."

"We are 11th at the moment and the aim for us is to finish as hard as possible who knows maybe break into the top of the table."

Elphick is determined to use his return to the side to build towards next season.

Simon Francis has performed well since coming into the heart of Cherries' defence, but filled in at right-back against Villa following injury to Adam Smith. Elphick said: "I don't feel I have a point to prove. I have been here long enough that people know what I am about."

"I started the season on good form, came out of the team due to an injury. It is more about proving a point to myself to get back to the level before I was out, to lay a marker down for next season, to finish the season on a high and then work hard in the summer to come back in good shape."



# Everton 1 Saints 1

# Saints unable to break hoodoo



AERIAL BATTLE: Southampton's Cuco Martina

**SAINTS' Goodison Park hoodoo continued as they battered Everton but only came away with a 1-1 draw.**

After a cagey opening the match was virtually one-way traffic as Saints created chance after chance, twice hitting the woodwork, before Ramiro Funes Mori gave the Toffees a second half lead totally against the run of play.

Sadio Mane quickly equalised but it was frustration for Saints in their hunt for European football as they failed to get the three points they deserved, extending their run without a win at Goodison Park to 11 matches over a period of more than 18 years, *writes Adam Leitch.*

Everton didn't start like a team low on confidence in front of their own fans, and almost created something out of nothing after four minutes when Fraser Forster spilled Bryan Oviedo's right wing cross.

However, Saints were just about able to scramble it away and settle themselves down.

Despite the attacking line-up named by Koeman, Saints were obviously trying to keep it tight early on, almost dropping into a 4-1-4-1 out of possession, knowing the atmosphere at Goodison Park might turn a little if they could frustrate their hosts.

They almost scored an unlikely goal on ten minutes when Cuco Martina miscued a cross from the right wing. The ball went high and looked set to drop under the bar on its way down, forcing Joel Robles to take action and turn it over.

Victor Wanyama tried his luck from the edge of the box five minutes later but Robles was alert to the danger and got down to his right to make the save.

Jose Fonte was in the right place at the right time up the other end to stand firm in the area and block a well-timed volley from Kevin Mirallas after Gerard Deulofeu's right wing cross.

Saints came agonisingly close to taking the lead on 20 minutes as Everton failed to clear the ball from their own



BATTLE FOR THE BALL: Shane Long.

## TEAM LINE-UPS

● Ronald Koeman named an unchanged side for the visit to Everton.

● The Saints boss kept the same line-up and formation that defeated Newcastle at St Mary's the previous weekend as he stuck with a highly attacking 4-2-3-1.

● That meant Shane Long, Sadio Mane and Dusan Tadic playing off of Grazianno Pelle.

● Steven Davis was fit again and returned to the bench but Charlie Austin missed

out through injury.

● Saints: Forster, Martina, Fonte, van Dijk, Bertrand, Wanyama, Clasie, Mane, Long, Tadic, Pelle.

● Subs: Stekelenburg, Yoshida, Cedric, Romeu, Ward-Prowse, S Davis, Rodriguez.

● Everton: Robles, Oviedo, Stones, Funes Mori, Coleman, Osman, Gibson, Besic, Mirallas, Deulofeu, Kone.

● Subs: Howard, Lukaku, Niasse, Barkley, Pienaar, Connolly, Davies.

area and Dusan Tadic produced a left footed volley on the turn that went just over the top.

Shane Long was the next to get a shooting chance just moments later but on the half volley from a tight angle he fired over.

Saints were getting on top and Tadic took advantage of Oviedo slipping on the ball on the right wing and pressed forward before drilling in a low near post shot but it was a fairly comfortable save for Robles.

Mirallas was complaining he was dragged down by Fonte when through on goal after intercepting a heavy touch from Wanyama on 29 minutes but nothing was given by referee Craig Pawson with the Saints man typically physical but also getting a firm foot to the ball.

Saints were forced into a change on 38 minutes as

Fonte was replaced by Maya Yoshida in the heart of defence. Fonte had been down for some time after a taking a hefty whack in the back from Arouna Kone and, having tried to carry on, left the pitch with what appeared to be a head injury.

Mane's pace forced a way through the Everton backline but he was off balance as he hit a shot and skewed it wide of the near post.

Daron Gibson became the first player in the book after hacking down Long as tried to burst through.

Ryan Bertrand stepped up to take the free kick 25 yards out to the right of centre and whipped it left footed over the wall. It appeared to be bending wide but Robles took no chances and dived to his left to turn it behind.

Saints came close again in first half stoppage time as Long got his head on Ber-

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FELLED: Graziano Pelle is brought down.

trand's near post corner and flicked it past Robles. However, it struck the far post and bounced clear of the waiting Mane.

There was time for yet another Saints chance as they won another corner which fell to Virgil van Dijk 12 yards out but he shot just over the bar.

It had been a half Saints had largely controlled but at the break it was still goal-less.

The second half started the same way the first had ended with Saints relentlessly attacking.

Tadic hit a fantastic curling left footed shot from just inside the area after cutting in from the right. It flicked off the head of Gibson and flew past the dive of Robles but struck the crossbar and bounced away.

Everton had to make a change on 54 minutes with Seamus Coleman seemingly having pulled his hamstring. He was replaced by Callum Connolly.

Fraser Forster had been a virtual spectator but actually had something approaching a save to make as Mirallas hit a free kick from 20 yards. However, it was straight at the keeper and a very easy take.

Both teams made a change on 64 minutes with Steven Davis coming on for Pelle and Long moving up front for Saints while Ross Barkley replaced Deulofeu for Everton.

Totally against the run of play Everton took the lead



on 68 minutes.

An outswinging corner was headed goalwards by Ramiro Funes Mori. Long got a block in but the ball came back to the Everton defender whose drilled low shot appeared to take a slight deflection off of Bertrand and rocketed past Forster for 1-0.

Saints responded with an attacking change as Jay Rodriguez replaced Wanyama.

Saints got an equaliser they thoroughly deserved on

76 minutes as neat interplay between Long and Tadic on the right wing, and then a one-two in the area between the Serbian and Martina, ended with the ball breaking into the six yard box where Mane was on hand to stab home from close range.

The game was briefly halted by an Everton fan invading the pitch to remonstrate with his own side's players before he was dragged off by security.

Rodriguez so nearly got on the end of a cut back and then forced a near post stop from Robles before Mane's effort met the same fate as Saints continued to pile forward.

Everton brought on Tom Davies, who wasn't born the last time Saints won at Goodison Park, for Gibson, and the youngster was able to see the game out as it ended in a draw.

**TRYING HIS LUCK:** Sadio Mane goes for goal.

Pictures by Stuart Martin

## Fonte in hospital for tests after head injury

JOSE Fonte has been taken to hospital for tests after sustaining a head injury that forced him off the pitch as Saints drew 1-1 with Everton.

The Saints skipper was clattered by a heavy challenge from behind by Arouna Kone in the first half at Goodison Park.

He tried to continue on but had to be substituted seven minutes before half time as he came off nursing his head.

Fonte has been taken to hospital in Liverpool for tests, and will travel back separately from the rest of the team, regardless of the results.

Saints boss Ronald Koeman confirmed: "Jose is away to the hospital.

"It is his head and of course we have to wait about the results what they will do in the hospital.

"They are to the hospital and normally they come back in the car and not in the plane."

Aside from his concern for Fonte, Koeman's major emotion after the 1-1 draw was one of frustration.

He started with a very attacking line-up against an under strength Everton side and it paid dividends in so far as his team dominated and created ample chances to win the game.

However, they ended up taking just a point.

He reflected: "Disappointed about the final result.

"Of course, if you are 1-0 down in the second half and you get one point out of it that's positive, but it was not what we like to have.

"It was difficult and it was not sharp enough in the whole total team performance.

"I was disappointed after 45 minutes that we didn't create more, that we didn't score the goal, because in my opinion there were a lot of opportunities.

"It was not good enough in the final pass, and not enough shots on target and then it's difficult to score the goal.

"It's a very offensive system, but with the four strikers then you need to make a difference."



Jose Fonte is checked out by medical staff after taking a knock to the head

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# Vanarama National: Eastleigh 2 Altrincham 0

## Spitfires train sights on play-offs after classy show

**TOP-DRAWER goals by Jai Reason and Luke Coulson saw off relegation haunted Altrincham 2-0 at the Silverlake Stadium this afternoon as Eastleigh extended their unbeaten Vanarama National League run to eight games.**

With Tranmere losing and Braintree winning, the revised table sees Chris Todd's men up to sixth in the play-off race, a point behind the fifth-placed Iron ahead of Tuesday's game in hand at FC Halifax Town, *writes Wendy Gee.*

Eastleigh's top scorer James Constable was a surprise absentee to face Altrincham, having been taken into hospital with an abdominal problem last night.

The game was only five minutes old when Altrincham's goalkeeper Tim Deasy sat down in his goalmouth, seemingly with a groin problem, but he was able to continue somewhat gingerly after treatment.

With that early interruption, things took time to settle down, but the Spitfires were knocking the ball around with some confidence probing for a way through.

Luke Coulson unleashed the first Eastleigh shot of note after Michael Green had pushed on down the left, but his ambitious effort was well off-range.

Ryan Crowther responded with a positive surge forward for Altrincham, but his soft shot proved no problem for Ross Flitney in the Spitfires goal.

Josh Ginnelly, a livewire up front for the visitors, then had a couple of pops at goal – one blocked and one wide – before the game was held up again for a head injury to Altrincham's Damien Reeves.

The stop-start nature of the contest seemed to unsettle Eastleigh and on 20 minutes a misplaced Ben Strevens pass was quickly pounced by the Robins and Flitney had to get down sharpish to deal with Reeves' low, drilled strike.

Once again Coulson was a bright spark for the Spitfires and, after Jai Reason had scampered cross field, having to round referee Nigel Lugg en route, Eastleigh's talented No31 unleashed a 20-yard curler which wasn't too far wide.

Time and time again there were groans of frustration from an expectant Silverlake crowd as Eastleigh moved purposefully forward only for a wayward final pass to let them down.

And with third-to-bottom Altrincham showing all the urgency of a team fighting for their lives, this wasn't the walk in the park for Eastleigh that the teams' respective league positions suggested it might be.

With 35 minutes gone, however, Altrincham's goal finally came under siege when first Yemi Odubade almost got a head to Joe Partington's cross from the right and then, as the ball came in from the other flank,



Jai Reason celebrates his goal

Jamie Turley made aerial contact but couldn't keep header down.

Still the Spitfires hadn't tested the Robins' clearly injured goalkeeper Deasy but, as they wound up the pressure, there were successive gasps of disbelief from the home faithful as first Odubade blasted a close-range volley wide from Coulson's knock-down and then Partington fizzed in a superb ball from deep right which missed Matt Tubbs by centimetres inside the six-yard box.

The last of the three minutes of first-half stoppage time brought action at both ends with Turley's block from Reeves launching Eastleigh on a quick counter attack.

The pacy Odubade bundled his way past defender Gianluca Havern before laying the ball back for skipper Andy Drury who steered yet another Spitfires shot off target.

Half-time: Eastleigh 0 Altrincham 0  
The Spitfires struggled to pick up the tempo at the start of the second half and some lax play involving Flitney, Will Evans and Green handed the Robins a throw-in from which

the burly figure of Michael Rankine could only aim a limp shot straight at Flitney at his near post.

But, slowly but surely, the Spitfires upped the ante and twice they threatened in the space of four high-octane minutes.

Partington did brilliantly to win a challenge inside the visitors' box and play in Matt Tubbs who lashed his effort into the side netting.

Then, with Altrincham's defence struggling to cope, Deasy kept out Will Evans' goalbound strike with his legs after good work by Jai Reason and Drury.

There was only so long the Spitfires could keep hammering on the door without breaking it down and, sure enough, Altrincham finally caved in on 58 minutes.

Tubbs got the crucial assist, doing brilliantly to chase the ball to the right by-line and pull it back for Reason who met it with a full-blooded blast into the top corner that gave Deasy no chance.

Suddenly the Spitfires were ram-pled and they could easily have dou-

bled or trebled their lead through Green, Reason or Tubbs as an increasingly one-sided contest ticked past the hour mark.

But, when it came, their 70th-minute second goal proved well worth the wait with a truly magnificent strike from exciting 22-year-old prospect Coulson.

Cutting in from the left, the former Oxford City wideman looked up and thundered an absolute screamer into the far netting from fully 25 yards for his second goal in as many games. Small wonder there are Football League scouts watching him!

Altrincham, to their credit, applied some pressure towards the end – Flitney denying Reeves with his feet in the depths of stoppage time.

Eastleigh: Ross Flitney, Joe Partington, Michael Green, Ben Strevens (Matty Fanimio, 84), Will Evans, Jamie Turley, Andy Drury, Jai Reason, Yemi Odubade (Jack Midson, 71), Matt Tubbs (Lee Cook, 84), Luke Coulson. Subs: Michael Poke, Paul Reid.

### NON-LEAGUE RESULTS

#### VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Bath City 1 Eastbourne Borough 0  
Bishop's Stortford 3 Margate 0  
Chelmsford City 4 Gosport Borough 1  
Dartford 0 Basingstoke Town 0  
Hayes & Yeading 2 Concord Rangers 2  
Hemel Hempstead Town 2 Oxford City 0  
St Albans City 5 Havant & Waterlooville 0  
Sutton United 2 Ebbsfleet 0  
Truro City 1 Maidstone United 2  
Wealdstone 0 Maidenhead 0  
Weston-s-Mare 0 Whitehawk 2

#### EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

##### Premier Division

Bedworth 1 Dorchester 0  
Biggleswade 3 Hitchin 5  
Cirencester 1 Leamington 2  
Hungerford 4 Frome 0  
Kettering pp Bideford  
Paulton Rovers 0 Histon 2  
Poole Town 3 Dunstable 0  
Redditch pp Chippenham  
Slough 2 Kings Lynn 0  
St Neots pp Chesham  
Stratford pp Cambridge City  
Weymouth 3 Merthyr 0

##### Division One South & West

AFC Totton 1 Swindon Supermarine 5  
Bashley 0 Burnham 2  
Bridgwater 1 Shortwood 2  
Cinderford 1 Mangotsfield 0  
Didcot 1 Tiverton 2  
Evesham 1 North Leigh 0  
Slimbridge 0 Wimborne 1  
Taunton 3 Marlow 0  
Wantage 7 Bishops Cleeve 1  
Winchester City 1 Larkhall 1  
Yate 0 Banbury 4

#### SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

##### Premier Division

Alresford 2 Blackfield & Langley 5  
Bemerton 2 AFC Portchester 0  
Bournemouth Poppies 1 Cowes Sports 3  
Fawley pp Moneyfield  
Hamworthy United 2 Horndean 3  
Lymington Town 0 Andover Town 3  
Salisbury 3 Brockenhurst 0  
Sholing 1 Folland Sports 0  
Whitchurch 0 Newport IOW 1

##### Division One

Fleet Spurs 0 Amesbury 2  
New Milton 3 Pewsey Vale 0  
Portland 2 Laverstock & Ford 1  
Ringwood 1 Hythe & Dibden 1  
US Portsmouth 1 Christchurch 2

#### PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

##### Premier Division

Baffins MR 7 Locks Heath 0  
Clanfield pp Paulsgrove  
Hamble Club pp Stockbridge  
Hedge End Rangers 0 Liphook 2  
Infinity 4 Overton 1  
Liss 2 Bush Hill 2  
Otterbourne 11 Headley United 1  
QK Southampton 2 Winchester Castle 2

##### Division 1

Lyndhurst 1 Four Marks 7  
Upham 2 Netley Central Sports 3  
Combination Division  
Championship Play-off  
Liss Athletic Res 0 Hamble Club Res 1

##### Combination East

AFC Petersfield pp Liphook

#### WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

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Moneyfields 4 US Portsmouth 1 aet

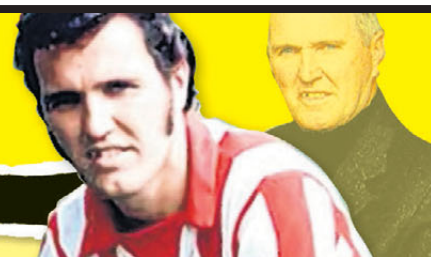
##### Division 1

AFC Stoneham 6 Alresford Town 0  
Totton & Eling 0 Romsey Town 0



# Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



## Wenger cannot be the only one to get blame

**FOLLOWING their pulsating 3-3 draw against West Ham, Arsenal's title hopes seem all but mathematically expired for another year.**

Their long wait for a Premier League trophy will continue, as arguably their best chance in years now appears as much of a long-shot as a 38-game season from Jack Wilshere.

Critics of Arsene Wenger will no doubt be in full voice over the coming weeks and months, the failings of a such a great club once again laid squarely on his shoulders by many a Gooner.

A failure to strengthen the squad in the right areas will likely be cited as a major reason for failure, as will poor team selection and tactics along the way.

The wonderfully entertaining Arsenal TV should now be awash with dissenting voices calling for the manager's head, his and the players' inability to mount a genuine title challenge merely compounded by the fact that it was probably their best chance in years.

But, whatever your thoughts on the Frenchman, and he's certainly a manager who divides opinion even among his own support base, the club's failure to win the Premier League in the last 12 years cannot be all his fault... can it?

Sure, he has his shortcomings and, as a manager who controls everything at a club from top to bottom, he must take much of the blame.

But the players and other staff all have to take on some of the burden, not least the medical staff, because, for yet another season, Arsenal's injury record has been among the worst in the league.

High profile injuries seem to perforate life at the Emirates season after season, the long-term absence of key names year on year surely a huge contributing factor towards the lack of league success.

You only have to look at the two sides above them this season — Spurs and Leicester — for evidence as to how a fit squad, core group of players and relatively settled first XI have a supremely positive influence on performance.

In fact, the Foxes have fielded the same starting team a total of 11 times this season, more than twice the amount of any rival.

Similarly Spurs who, although they have shuffled the pack in line with demands of extra European matches, have managed to utilize players from a fairly small batch, any changes made generally in line with tactics and mentality.

Why is it that Arsenal's injury-record is so alarmingly prominent season after season? Consistent selection not only leads to familiarity among the players, but, as a result, consistent play and consistent tactics.



This season, and for many previous, Wenger has had to juggle his squad of players, rarely willing, or able, to field the same starting XI on a consistent basis.

It has had its benefits of course, the likes of Francis Coquelin, Alex Iwobi and Hector Bellerin all coming into the fold quicker than expected due to injuries elsewhere, but all performing well above expectations.

So in a perverse way it can benefit the side, but on the whole it is hugely detrimental to a team's title chances.

Chelsea's success last season was built on consistent team selection, the squad kept largely injury-free by the fantastic medical team, giving Jose Mourinho the opportunity to pick the same players again and again, meaning, should any need to be brought in, they were ready both physically and mentally.

In fact, if you think back to many of the Premier League champions over the years,

a regular starting XI is very often apparent — any additional players used often brought in more through desire than necessity.

Maybe there is some luck to avoiding multiple injuries throughout a season, and maybe Arsenal just don't have that luck. Who knows? But what we do know is that the Emirates seems to consistently have more key players on its sidelines than any other ground in the Premier League. And with injury comes indecision and inconsistency. And with that comes... well, an Arsenal season.

When Arsenal inevitably fall short of expectations, the wrath and derision of the fans is almost always directed towards Wenger.

Team selection, tactics and mentality are often cited, as too his dealings in the transfer market.

But taking a closer look, we can actually pinpoint the catalogue of high-profile and

often lengthy injuries that seem to blight the Gunners year upon year as a key factor in their knack of falling just short of the mark.

If it's the training methods that lead to the injuries, then perhaps we can blame Wenger once more.

But if it's more than that, which seems likely, then the finger of blame must be pointed towards the raft of doctors and physios no doubt employed at the Emirates.

Where would they be had Santi Cazorla stayed fit beyond November? What if Jack Wilshere had played even just a handful of games this season?

The dilemmas faced in team-selection, transfer targets and match-day tactics forced upon Wenger over the years has led to Arsenal consistently falling short, with the manager often being criticised — but perhaps there are more factors at work here than just a stubborn Frenchman.



# Adam Rant



The week's big talking points  
with ADAM LEITCH

# Is sport really all about money ...?

## What price can you put on health of our country?

### WHEN did the world become all about money?

The depressing news this week of a council in Bristol wanting to charge Parkrun for using a local facility for their weekly event was a reminder of just how far down the list of priorities sport has slipped.

When we picture sport we inevitably think of what is happening at the top level of the professional world.

But in a country with a growing obesity problem, a cash-strapped NHS and an increasingly fragmented society, surely we should be doing all we can to get people out together and taking part in sport.

In terms of the decision taken by Stoke Gifford Council, you can have a little sympathy in one respect.

Though their first argument that the runners were causing extra wear and tear to the paths seemed a little laughable, the point that the local football team had to pay to use the facilities so why shouldn't the Parkrun group seems plausible enough.

However, you ultimately end up running into the same question – when did sport become such an afterthought that we view it as a way of generating money?

Of course, we know sport is business. Exercise is business.

Look at the number of expensive gyms and health clubs, in Adam Rant's sport of triathlon the ever increasing cost of entering events as the rates charged by local authorities to host events goes up and up.

Local councils can, however, be spared some of the blame, they are victims too, their budgets cut to such an extent that they feel forced into doing this.

Why should the Parkrun community be charged for jogging 5k, yes only 5k, around a public park, for all of about one hour out of an entire week? And why should the local football team have to pay too?

Something has gone very wrong with the world, or maybe this country in particular, that we seem unable to see the value of something if we cannot put a quantifiable number beside it.

Improving people's health, improving their wellbeing, both physically and mentally, creating a sense of community, even hopefully decreasing the burden on the NHS. These all seem such rational and sensible



Parkruns have become very popular over the last few years.

objectives, and yet we cannot say exactly what they are worth in pounds and pence. Therefore, it seems, they are simply cast aside.

Alright, Parkrun does have big sponsors, and there are a few at the top getting paid for it, but we should be grateful they are there, providing people with free access to an or-

ganised event. The numbers taking part prove it has had an incredible effect.

While everybody is hammering this particular local council, the truth is that the decision not to prioritise sports funding, which would ultimately remedy this situation, is taken well above their heads and in

the corridors of Westminster.

Perhaps no political party wants to be seen to be cutting welfare or business budgets while increasing sport, but that is a short-sighted view, and, ultimately, one that is harming our collective futures and the health of a nation.

What price can you put on that?

## Righting a big wrong

OF ALL the things to come out of the announcement of the seven-year partnership between Saints and Under Armour, probably the most welcome was the commitment for the club to get involved in women's football again.

It really has been a blot on the Saints copybook that they cut ties with their women's side following relegation from the Premier League in 2005 and have gone without their own female set-up in the intervening 11 years.

Chairman Ralph Krueger described the motivation as being about respect, and that is fair enough.

The club may have worldwide marketing ambitions, but it remains very much rooted in its Hampshire community, and as such has a moral obligation.

With times good and the money flowing in, part of that has to be to back the women's game.

An academy set-up is a superb idea, and surely a strong first team, hopefully backed to make it to the top level of the women's game, would only strengthen this.

It may have been a long time coming, but well done Saints for righting this wrong.



Ralph Krueger

## Big fight... bring it on

IT WOULD be fantastic to see Anthony Joshua fight David Haye this year.

All the talk is that the bout won't happen for at least another 12 months, and that would be a shame.

Joshua surely has all the tools to dominate the heavyweight division for years to come, but is still to face truly a challenge which can test his considerable skills and power.

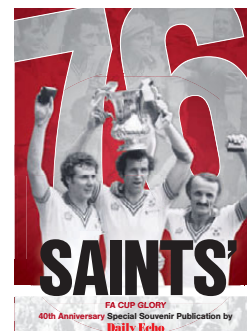
Haye is the kind of fighter who can, but another year down the line he will be 36 and potentially slowing a little as his career nears an end.

You rarely get exactly what you want in boxing but let's hope this fight happens sooner rather than later.



# SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

## Celebrating 1976 - four decades on



**THE Daily Echo is celebrating Saints' momentous FA Cup 1976 victory by releasing a special publication in celebration of the 40th anniversary of that famous day.**

The glossy 84-page souvenir magazine contains a vast collection of never seen before pictures of that remarkable occasion.

The superb black and white pictures paint a candid new insight into the jubilant aftermath of Saints' 1-0 win over Manchester United at Wembley.

The Daily Echo still wants to hear from supporters who have a story to tell about the FA Cup win.

Get in touch by emailing your 1976 memories and photographs to [echosport@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:echosport@dailyecho.co.uk)

● The special souvenir glossy magazine will go on general sale from next Wednesday (April 20) in all local independent newsagents and is available on pre-order now.

For enquiries and to place orders as from today, please email [sarah.reilly@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:sarah.reilly@dailyecho.co.uk)



Bobby Stokes lifts the FA Cup at Wembley.



Jim McCalliog and Nick Holmes at Wembley.



Some of the many images that are in the Echo's glossy 84-page 1976 FA Cup anniversary souvenir special.



### Katherine Jenkins at Hampton Court Palace

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# Non league FOOTBALL



Brockenhurst chairman Stan Reid

## Badgers planning to expand next season

EXPANDING Sydenhams Premier Division outfit Brockenhurst will be operating at a new level next season – or two, to be precise.

Along with launching a development side in the Wyvern Combination League, they will have an under-18 team competing in the Southampton Youth League.

To that end, the Badgers are holding trials at Grigg Lane tomorrow (Sunday, April 17, 11am start) and next Sunday, April 24 (11am) for any players interested in joining a progressive club.

The idea is for the under-18s to filter into the development squad and through to Pat McManus's first team.

Brock's new development team will be run by Paul Nineham and

Chris Groves, who recently tendered their resignations as managers of Sway reserves.

A statement from the duo explained: "We intend to see out the season (at Sway) before moving on to Brockenhurst FC, running a newly created 'development team' focusing on nurturing young players in readiness for Wessex League football."

Sway under-18 managers Luke Hirst and Ben Howlett have also handed in their resignations and will be moving across to run Brock's under-18s.

All three management teams will be involved in the trials and work together throughout next season as part of Brock's 'one club' philosophy.

Chairman Stan Reid is delighted to be welcoming the Sway quartet on board, adding: "They bring with them a wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm which will be a massive help to Pat (McManus) in establishing the broader structure."

"Planning for the new season is already underway."

Those plans include adding more age-groups to the current youth set-up and hosting a youth tournament at Grigg Lane over the weekend of May 21/22.

● Players should register their interest for the forthcoming development squad/under-18 trials by emailing [lukehirst121@outlook.com](mailto:lukehirst121@outlook.com) listing name, address, date of birth and preferred position.

## Toughest so far

SIMON Browne admits this season has been his toughest in management, but he insists Wimborne Town are on the up.

Appointed at the end of November, former Hamworthy United boss Browne has steered the Magpies to Southern One South & West survival - no easy task considering the Dorset club's very existence came under threat after huge debts were uncovered.

Asked if it had been his most difficult campaign, Browne said: "That would be a fair assessment."

"Saying that, it has got easier in the past month. All the players that were going to go have gone, the squad has been relatively settled and the players have accepted the situation they are in."

"We have put a few training sessions together which have worked well and the lads have gelled."

"The past few weeks have been a pleasure."

● WIMBORNE Town are running trials for next season's new under-18 South West Counties and development squads.

The trials will take place at the Magpies' Cuthbury home and the first one, for under-18s only, is on May 7 (11am-1pm).

Combined trials for under-18 and development squad members will be on May 14 (2-4pm) and May 21 (11am-1pm).

For more details email [wtfcddev-trials@gmail.com](mailto:wtfcddev-trials@gmail.com) or see the Twitter account @wtfcddevtrials.

● SYDENHAMS Premier outfit Newport IoW are looking to arrange pre-season friendlies for both their first and reserve teams.

Anyone interested, please contact Lisa Woodward on 07917 043152 or via email at [secretary.newport.iwfc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.newport.iwfc@gmail.com)

● FLEET Spurs, of Sydenhams Division One, are mourning the passing of one of their founder members Eric Heanes.

He was a life vice-president of the north Hampshire club.



Simon Browne.

# 'Devastated' Dove facing a year out with ACL injury

## Young Boatman midfielder Dan tweets bad news

ONE of Sholing's most promising youngsters has been hit with the news that he faces another year on the sidelines.

Already out for a lengthy spell which has reduced him to just five Sydenhams Premier appearances this season, central midfielder Dan Dove's knee injury has been confirmed as a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament.

Dove was one of three teenage Boatmen to be snapped up on a two-year contract last summer, aged 19, along with defender Owen Roundell and goalkeeper Jordan Brooks.

But injury has halted his progress and he tweeted this week: "So after 6 months I've got my answer. Ruptured my ACL. Operation & another year out of football. Devastated."

Manager Dave Diaper has vowed to do all he can to make Dove's absence from football as painless as possible.

"He texted me with the news this week and it's very disappointing," said the boss. "He needs an operation and he's going to be nine months in rehab."

"Dan is one of four or five young players that we've got on contract and I'm going to try and start up a bit of a fund for him if I can."

"He's very hopeful of getting back into it at Sholing and it's one of those situations where, if he works hard, he can. He's welcome back at any time."

Reacting to the news, Sholing secretary Greg Dickson tweeted: "Sorry to hear the news @DJDove hope you bounce back stronger and recover



Dan Dove (centre) pictured with fellow Sholing young guns Owen Roundell (left) and Jordan Brooks.

fully #stillyoungenoughtohaveanimpactinthefuture."

It was another of the Boatmen's exciting youngsters Kieran Winman who emerged as the match-winning hero last Saturday as they saw off Whitchurch 2-1.

With Diaper resting several seniors, Sholing's inexperienced backline was caught off-guard by Dave Parry's 14th-minute header from a corner.

It was only the second goal the Boatmen had conceded at home in the league in 2016 and came against the run of play.

Parity was restored on 25 minutes when yet another young gun, Jake Hoole, was brought down in the area and Dan Mason beat Whitchurch 'keeper Brad Snelling from the spot for his 36th goal of the season.

It was the introduction of two sec-

ond-half substitutes that brought about Sholing's 84th-minute winner.

The experienced Kevin Brewster delivered, Mason flicked on at the near post and, after the ball had rebounded off the bar, Winman buried his first goal in only his second senior appearance.

The game ended on a sour note when Zach Glasspool saw red for a second bookable offence.



# Non league FOOTBALL



## Saints striker can't forget Dolphins



Charlie Austin in his Poole Town days.

YOU can take the boy out of non-League football - but you will never take non-League football out of the boy!

Saints striker Charlie Austin may be playing his trade in the Premier League days, but a piece of his heart will forever belong to the club where he first came to prominence, Poole Town.

On Tuesday night Luke Burridge's classy first-half strike along the banks of the River Avon left Poole tantalisingly close to being crowned champions of the Southern Premier Division.

And Dolphins old boy Austin took to Twitter to congratulate his former club, posting: "Well done @PooleTownFC big finish needed now."

Burridge's 19th-minute piledriver was pure poetry for the Dolphins at Strat-

ford Town, the birthplace of William Shakespeare.

It settled in Poole's favour a scrappy contest and took the Dorset club six points clear at the summit.

They required three points from their final three games of the season - starting at home to Dunstable today - to win the title.

Promotion to National League South, step two in the non-League pyramid, would cap a remarkable rise for a club which was competing in the Hampshire League just 12 years ago.

Current boss Tom Killick, who has taken charge of more than 600 games, has presided over three promotions and is hoping to pilot the club to a fifth league championship.

Poole have been desperate to erase the memory of last season's failure when they lost a title decider on the final day against Corby and then suffered play-off heartbreak against St Neots in the semi-final.

Ground issues dogged the Dolphins for several years after they had been kicked out of Poole Stadium in 1994.

They originally joined the Southern League in 1957 and spent 40 consecutive seasons in the competition, including 13 in the top flight.

Until 1979, the top tier of the Southern League had been one of three divisions to feed into the Football League, with Poole finishing behind Cambridge United in 1970 and Hereford United in 1972 as both clubs won election.

## Ambitious Andover

ANDOVER Town have been given the green light for promotion by the Southern League's ground grading team.

Town had a visit from officials, who will recommend to the FA that the Portway Stadium be deemed fit for purpose in the Southern League if they achieve promotion from the Sydenhams Premier.

The north Hampshire club had to complete minor changes, including widening the pitch and the installation of a press bench, to get the grading.

However, Town officials do not intend to stop there.

They are hoping to complete changes of their own over the summer - including levelling and opening up the currently unused West Stand to make the Portway a four-sided stadium.

Speculation is that the Sydenhams Premier Division's top-two teams will be offered a chance to step up at the end of this season which, if true, would likely boil down to either Blackfield & Langley or Andover being promoted with Salisbury.

Andover Town chairman Stuart Barlow is confident his club are in with a chance of clinching a promotion spot, and is already looking for ways to prepare Andover for the extra financial burden of Southern League football.

He said: "We've got ambitions to finish in the top-two and then we will start trying to work on getting ready for next year and the extra costs."

"We've already brought in two more sponsors and will continue to be supported by Premier Coating, who have given us great support over the last two to three years."

"But we do need more help, particularly with the cost of travel, which will be the biggest issue if we are promoted."

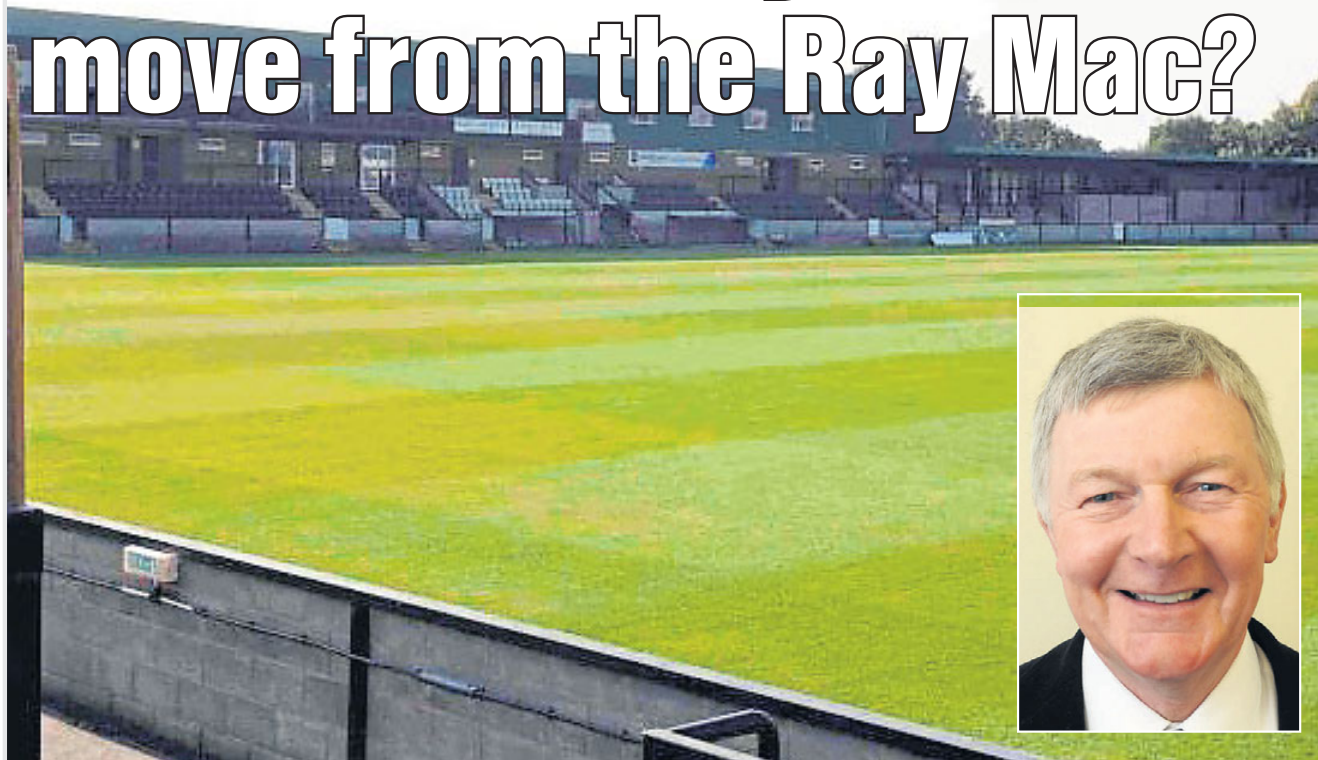
"We would be particularly keen to talk to any travel companies."

"We would also appreciate help from local people who have spare time. They can volunteer to help the club in any way."



Andover Town director John Ward and club chairman Stuart Barlow at the Portway Stadium.

## Could Salisbury be on the move from the Ray Mac?



The Raymond McEnhill Stadium and, inset, Salisbury chairman David Phillips.

**HIGH-LEVEL discussions are taking place between Salisbury FC, Wiltshire Council and Sport England on a potential new community stadium for the Whites.**

The talks, which have been going on for the past year, have reached an advanced stage with the lease at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium, home of the Whites since 1997, set to run out in May 2017, *writes Alex Rennie.*

As part of the terms of the lease agreement, the trustees of the stadium would need to find a new home for Salisbury FC if the football club were kicked out.

But, as Whites chairman David

Phillips admitted, they would only need to provide land and not fork out the cost of the new stadium which would likely be funded from community money set aside by developers.

### Relocate

However, The Pink's sister paper The Salisbury Journal understands that a potential location has already been identified and it could even be announced within a few weeks.

"We are seeing what is available (with Wiltshire Council) and seeing where we can relocate," Phillips said. "(If we moved) then it would just be a field, a stadium would need to be built. So much is up in the air at the moment and so many possibilities."

"Finding somewhere, moving us

there and building something would be more sustainable because Wiltshire Council are going to be involved.

"I suspect they will be looking to get 3G pitches there which would produce a fantastic income and sustain the club - more of a community idea."

"It is frustrating because we can't do anything without finding somewhere else to go and that is the difficult part."

Representatives from Wiltshire Council attended a recent Salisbury game to continue talks.

However, Phillips would not commit to definitely moving out of the stadium. When asked if the Whites would leave the Ray Mac after next

season, he replied: "I don't know."

"They can't build on this place unless they find us somewhere else."

"That won't change. If the trustees decide not to renew the lease they have a problem because they will struggle to get planning permission."

"And it would cost more because we are paying them rent, which they wouldn't be getting if we left."

Wiltshire Council cabinet member Jonathon Seed confirmed that talks were taking place but refused to give out any more details, citing commercial sensitivity.

"We are trying all we can to help Salisbury, but at this stage I would not want to say anything because it could prejudice negotiations," he said.



# Non league FOOTBALL



## Teen defender chosen to take part in FA summer training camp

RINGWOOD'S Brendan Willson has been selected in an Elite A squad for a National Independent Schools' FA training camp in August.

The teenage defender impressed in a series of trials with the South West region representative squad

at a festival in Shrewsbury. He captained the side and scored a free-kick in their only victory.

Centre-back Willson, who progressed through the Ringwood Town youth ranks, is one of 30 players who will head to the summer training camp at Oakham,

East Midlands.

The youngster recently gained a five-year school football academy scholarship at Bournemouth Collegiate School, which is monitored by Southampton FC Foundation coaches and plays in the Junior Premier League for BCW

(Saints).

Willson also trains at the AFC Bournemouth Advanced Development Centre at Canford.

He hopes to move further up the football ladder and get the chance to make the grade in the professional ranks.

# 'Red card haul is an unfair reflection on my Spitfires'

Josh the eighth Eastleigh star to be dismissed

**WHEN Josh Payne got his marching orders for Eastleigh at Grimsby, he became the eighth Spitfire to be red-carded this term – more than any other side in the Vanarama National League.**

And with more than their fair share of yellow cards accumulated too, the Stoneham Lane club have the dubious honour of sitting top of the VNL's card count table, *writes Wendy Gee*.

Although manager Chris Todd concedes that his players do not help themselves at times, he cannot believe that the side leading the 'bad boys' chart are the same group of lads he works with day in, day out.

"We haven't got these type of players and the number of cards we've picked up doesn't reflect what myself or the players are about," said the likeable Welshman.

"There have been a few (cards) that have been our own fault, but things have gone against us a bit at times.

"We're conscious that we have to try and cut down on it, but sometimes it's out of our control."

Payne's dismissal was a case in point.

Even Grimsby boss Paul Hurst was doubtful that the Spitfires midfielder should have seen a straight red for his robust 48th-minute challenge on Richard Tait during last Saturday's 0-0 draw at Blundell Park.

Hurst admitted: "I'm not sure about it. It was a very strong tackle, but personally I love that.

"It wasn't a massive surprise to me because of how referees make decisions now but, at the same time, I'm not 100 per cent convinced it was (a red card).

Payne's supposedly X-rated tackle triggered an automatic three-match suspension for the ex-Woking man at a crucial phase in Spitfires' play-off push.

But, although clearly unhappy with referee Michael Salisbury's decision to brandish a straight red, the club decided not to appeal having gauged some expert opinion.

"We had a few referees we know



Josh Payne was the eighth Spitfire to be sent off this season.

look at it and the feedback we got was that it wouldn't be overturned, so we had to bite the bullet," Todd explained.

"It's frustrating to lose a good player for three games.

"The tackle was firm but fair. It wasn't aggressive, just firm.

"I do understand it's difficult for referees with the rules of the game being as they are. Five years ago that tackle would have been perfectly fine and the game would have continued.

The fact it's seen as a red card now is just the way the game (football) has gone. It can be very frustrating at times.

"The issue was that Josh left the ground and, although he's taken the ball, he took the player a little bit afterwards, although the player got up and was fine."

● THE Vanarama National League play-off dates have been confirmed. Should Chris Todd's Eastleigh

squeeze into the top-five, they will be back in play-off semi-final, first leg action the midweek following their final league fixture at Woking on Saturday, April 30.

National League play-off schedule - Wednesday, May 4, 7pm: 5th place vs 2nd place. Thursday, May 5, 7pm: 4th place vs 3rd place. Saturday, May 7, 7.30pm: 2nd place vs 5th place. Sunday, May 8, 3pm: 3rd place vs 4th place. Promotion Final: Sunday, May 15 at Wembley Stadium, 4pm.

## Fleetwood released by Doswell

FORMER Eastleigh forward Stuart Fleetwood has been released by Sutton United.

Fleetwood scored only one competitive goal - the FA Trophy defeat at Bognor - in 36 appearances for the Us and failed to hold down a regular first-team place.

Sutton's ex-Eastleigh manager Paul Doswell said: "Stuart and I had a chat and we decided it was best for him to say 'thank you' and call it a day.

"Unfortunately it hasn't worked out for him, and he was travelling a long way from Gloucester to not be involved in the team."

"With the likes of Tom Bolarinwa, Dan Wishart, Dan Fitchett and Ross Stearn ahead of him and in such good form, it was always going to be tough.

"But he is a top lad and a true professional. He never gave me any problems, he never sat there and moaned when he was not playing - it made it hard to let him go."

Fleetwood made his name at Conference national club Forest Green in 2007/08, scoring over 30 league and cup goals.

He helped Eastleigh win the Conference South title in 2013/14, but fell out of favour last term. On rejoining Forest Green on loan last season, he failed to score in 17 appearances.

Sutton, meanwhile, went into today's round of matches top of the National League South, level on points with former leaders Ebbsfleet United.

But the Surrey club face having three points deducted relating to another ex-Eastleigh forward, Jamie Slabber, appearing off the bench against St Albans City in March.

It is understood that the National League had given permission for Slabber's (loaned from Hemel Hempstead Town) appearance, but the required copy of the paperwork was not faxed to the FA.

United have requested a hearing with the FA and they await the governing body's response.



Stuart Fleetwood



## Non league FOOTBALL



### Doomed Town wait on next league

BASINGSTOKE Town's slim hopes of National League South survival were ended on Tuesday with a 3-2 defeat at Gosport Borough.

It left the north Hampshire club – play-off semi-finalists just last season after matching their highest ever NLS finish of third – hopelessly adrift at the bottom with 31 points from 39 games.

Town have been part of the NLS (formerly Conference South), since it was established in 2004/05.

But their poor form has cost two man-

agers their jobs this term with Jason Bristow standing down in late November and his promoted assistant Michael Gilkes relieved of his duties last month.

Experienced former Aldershot and AFC Wimbledon manager Terry Brown was quickly appointed Gilkes' replacement but, after winning his first game in charge against Oxford City, took only one of the next available 12 points.

Town must now wait to see where they will play next season, either in the Premier Division of the Ryman (Isthmian)

or Southern League.

Gosport, who have themselves had problems, of the financial kind, took the lead on 20 minutes on Tuesday when Rory Williams' long-range piledriver hit the woodwork and fell for Dan Wooden to bury.

Justin Bennett doubled Borough's advantage before Liam Enver-Marum gave Basingstoke a ray of hope.

Adam Wilde made it 3-1 and, although Manny Williams narrowed the gap again, Gosport held strong for victory.

### Twentieth win in a row seals silverware

**SALISBURY** clinched the Sydenhams Wessex Premier League title on Thursday with victory over Horndean.

Three second half goals gave Steve Claridge's phoenix club – only formed last summer – a 3-0 success at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

Adam Kelly bundled the ball home on 59 minutes, five minutes before a silky finish from centre-half Steve Walker doubled Whites' lead.

Ex-Saints striker Jamie White tucked home a third ten minutes from time to see the reformed club crowned champions.

Remarkably, it was Salisbury's 20th league win in a row.

They have not dropped a single point since a 2-1 loss to Blackfield & Langley at the Ray Mac on October 24.

Thursday's win, in front of a crowd of 766, took the Whites to 92 points.

Starting with this weekend's home game against Brockenhurst, Salisbury still had six games left in which to try and break the 100-point milestone mark.

Claridge's side are home again next Tuesday, to Moneyfields, before welcoming Hamworthy to the Ray Mac on Saturday, April 23.

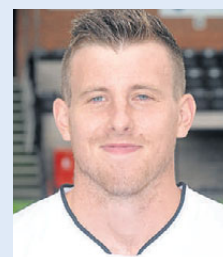
Four days after that, Salisbury face Melksham in the final of the Wiltshire Senior Cup at Chippenham Town FC.

Salisbury will be presented with the Sydenhams Wessex trophy on May 7 – the last day of the campaign – at home to Newport (IOW).

● Poole Town hold the record for most points in a Wessex League top flight season.

Tommy Killick's Dolphins amassed 116 in 2008/09 – though they did play two games more than Salisbury will play this term.

VTFC, now Sholing, were runners-up in 2008/09 with 101 points.



Jamie White



Terry Brown

## Claridge praised for taking Salisbury to Wessex title

Farrell: Credit to Steve for using resources well

**BLACKFIELD & Langley assistant boss Chris Farrell says Salisbury are worthy winners of the Sydenhams Premier Division.**

Try as they might to keep pace with Steve Claridge's Whites at the top, the task proved too great for the Watersiders who, heading into their last six fixtures at Alresford Town today, were still hopeful of nailing runners-up spot, *writes Wendy Gee.*

Ultimately, said Farrell, Salisbury's depth of squad, allied to Claridge's higher league experience, set them a class apart from the rest.

"Salisbury have got a big squad which their resources have allowed them to have and he (Claridge) is no fool having played and managed in the Football League and even the Premier League," he said.

"They justifiably beat us at our place last week. It was only 1-0, but they were better than us.

"We were short of players on the night, but we defended well. But they had too much for us and beat us fair and square. We've no complaints at all.

"For Salisbury to bring in someone like (ex-Weymouth midfielder) Adam Kelly for the final part of the season speaks volumes. In him and Tom Whelan, they've got the best two midfielders in the league by a long, long way, no question about it.

"We could all be a bit romantic thinking we could catch Salisbury, but none of us could. They've carried a lot of players on contract and he (Claridge) has used the resources well."

With automatic promotion now beckoning for Salisbury, Farrell reckons they are going to be missed on the Wessex scene.

Not everyone was happy when the phoenix club – risen from the ashes of the debt-ridden Salisbury City FC – was placed in the Sydenhams Pre-



Salisbury manager Steve Claridge.

mier Division last summer, but their massive support has made them an exciting addition to the league.

"They've given players the opportunity to play in front of a decent crowd and you could say that everyone's embraced that," said Farrell. "Whether, morally, they should have been put in our league, who knows?

"But they had to start somewhere and you have to applaud them for what they've achieved. The pressure was on them from the start to win the

league and they've done that even though, possibly, a lot of people wanted them to fail.

"The stats say they're one of the best four teams in England at this level because they reached the semi-finals of the FA Vase."

Had it not been for meeting another Step 5 giant Hereford in the last four of the Vase, Salisbury might even have reached Wembley at the first attempt.

Next season, they could well be

paired with Hereford again in the Southern One South & West and that, says Farrell, would be an exciting prospect for the likes of AFC Totton.

"If Salisbury and Hereford are together in that league, they'll probably have an even bigger impact with crowds etc," he said.

"I'm pretty sure Salisbury will say goodbye to a few players and strengthen. It will be interesting to see whos he (Claridge) keeps."



## Non league FOOTBALL

# Bentley: City just ran out of steam in St Mary's cup final

Tired limbs cost us our chance, says City skipper

**WARREN Bentley feels tired limbs cost Winchester City their chance of glory in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup final on Tuesday, writes Wendy Gee.**

City's effervescent skipper was his normal bundle of energy for the first hour at St Mary's, but he cramped up in both calves and had to hobble off after 72 minutes, making way for Howard Newton.

Newton was City's only senior play on the bench owing to the absence of Leigh Mills (work), Craig Feeney (cup-tied) and Matt Benham (injured), and it was their lack of fresh, experienced legs against two leagues higher Havant & Waterlooville that eventually took its toll in a 1-1 draw.

With 36-year-old goalscorer Andy Forbes also coming off towards the end, it left City devoid of strikers for the decisive penalty shootout which ended 5-3 in Havant's favour.

Bentley is a PE teacher by trade but, like so many of his teammates, he found the going tough on the wide open spaces of St Mary's.

"Ninety minutes of that intensity was difficult for the whole team and we were struggling in the last 20 minutes," he said.

"I cramped up in both calves. I'd been trying to run it off, but I couldn't.

"Havant (of the National League South) are a fit side and I thought for 60-70 minutes we held our own against them, but we couldn't quite hold on for the last 20.

"Our squad's a bit depleted and we didn't have the options we usually have on the bench.

"We matched them for quality, but fitness told in the end."

Despite the way the evening ended, Bentley was chuffed to play on a Premier League surface.

"You've got to enjoy these occasions, they don't come around too often," said the 56-goal striker.

"You won't play on a better pitch than that.

"But that was something like our 52nd or 53rd game of the season and some of these boys have played every minute of those games and I thought it told in the last half-hour."

Havant, in contrast, had the luxury of sending on Ben Swallow and former AFC Bournemouth striker James Hayter just after the hour. And try as weary Winchester might to keep the Hawks at bay, Dan Strugnell made the pressure count on 83 minutes when he wiped out Forbes' 30th-minute opener.

Havant proved deadly in the



Havant & Waterlooville celebrate with the Hampshire Senior Cup.



Winchester's Adam Roberts, left, in action.



Winchester's Dan Everton is just beaten to the ball.



Winchester's beaten players at the end of the cup final.

shootout, sinking five out of five penalties through James Hayter, George Barker, Scott Donnelly and ex-Saints Matt Paterson and Andy Robinson.

Jamie Barron was the unlucky man to be denied by Hawks' keeper Ryan Young, but Bentley was convinced City should have visited the penalty spot earlier in the evening after he had been "wiped out" by Young in the 58th minute.

Had that been awarded – and scored – the trophy could well have ended up at the Denplan City Ground rather

than Westleigh Park.

"I'm guessing the ref didn't see it," said Bentley. "The ball was running out of play and he's made the decision not to give it, but there's no question it was a penalty. I've almost been flipped over."

For Havant & Waterlooville, it was their first county cup triumph since the two clubs merged in 1998.

National League South survival remains the struggling Hawks' urgent priority, but manager Lee Bradbury said: "I'm really pleased.

"We had a lot of possession first half and some decent chances but we never really hurt them enough. We gave the ball away once and they counter-attacked and scored.

"It was difficult then to get into the game because they made it hard for us.

"Second half we were a lot better, we made better decisions higher up the pitch.

"Then we sent on James Hayter and Ben Swallow and it turned the game.

## Dramatic recoveries

**LIVERPOOL'S remarkable 4-3 comeback win at Anfield sink Borussia Dortmund 5-4 on aggregate and reach the Europa League semi-finals was just the latest in a string of improbable turnaround triumphs.**

**Here, the Sports PINK examines some classic comeback victories for the Anfield club.**

Liverpool 3 AC Milan 3 (Liverpool won 3-2 on penalties, Champions League final, Istanbul, May 2005) Liverpool beat Milan in a penalty shoot-out to win the Champions League after coming from three goals down at half-time. Paolo Maldini gave Milan a first-minute lead, and two goals from Hernan Crespo put them in a seemingly unassailable position at the interval. Reds captain Steven Gerrard gave Liverpool hope, and Vladimir Smicer and Xabi Alonso levelled in a seven-minute spell. Jerzy Dudek then saved from Andrea Pirlo and Andriy Shevchenko in the shoot-out to clinch a stunning victory.

Liverpool 3 West Ham United 3 (Liverpool won 3-1 on penalties, FA Cup final, Cardiff, May 2006) Steven Gerrard's added-time screamer dragged this Millennium Stadium final into extra time, just when West Ham thought they had the match done and dusted. The Reds captain's second goal salvaged a 3-3 draw at the last, after West Ham had thrown away a 2-0 first-half lead. Liverpool then prevailed 3-1 on penalties.

Liverpool 3 Olympiacos 1 (UEFA Champions League Group Stage, Anfield, December 2004) Liverpool had to win by two goals to advance to the knockout stages, so Rivaldo's 27th minute goal left the hosts with an uphill struggle. Florent Sinama Pongolle put the Reds back on terms after the break, before Neil Mellor edged Liverpool into the 2-1 lead with nine minutes to play. And then up popped Steven Gerrard, firing home from 20 yards with just four minutes of normal time remaining.

Liverpool 3 St Etienne 1 (Liverpool won 3-2 on aggregate, European Cup third round second leg, Anfield, March 1977) A goal down from the first leg, Kevin Keegan handed the Anfield men hope with a second-minute goal, only for Dominique Bathenay to draw the visitors level with the precious away goal. Liverpool had to score twice more without reply to reach the semi-finals. Ray Kennedy struck just before the hour, and sub David Fairclough fired the winner with just six minutes to play.



Liverpool's Dejan Lovren celebrates scoring a dramatic winner against Dortmund on an Anfield glory night.



# Non league FOOTBALL

## Chelsea spending will hold back youngsters, says ex-Saint



SWANSEA midfielder Jack Cork expects his old club Chelsea to spend heavily this summer and make it difficult for their talented youngsters to establish themselves at Stamford Bridge.

The former Saints player, pictured left, helped Swansea to the 40-point mark and surely another season in the top flight by securing their first-ever Barclays Premier League victory over Chelsea on Saturday.

Gylfi Sigurdsson's first-half volley gave the Swans victory against visitors missing several regulars through injury and suspension, and Chelsea interim manager Guus Hiddink took the opportunity to include some fresh faces in his matchday squad.

England Under-21 international Ruben Loftus-Cheek made his second successive start, striker Bertrand Traore was a second-half substitute and midfielders Kasey Palmer

and Charlie Cokkett were both on the bench for the game.

"They have invested heavily in the academy over the years and have got a lot of good talent in there," said Cork, who captained Chelsea's youth and reserve teams but never made a senior appearance for the club.

"They have won a lot of FA Youth cups so the quality is there, but there is a lot of pressure on them to win titles and win trophies.

"So it's nice to see a few of the young lads get an opportunity to prove themselves.

"Maybe it isn't a good time for the club results-wise, but it's good that they are giving young players a chance and it hasn't been like that recently."

While the 1-0 defeat virtually extinguished Chelsea's final hope of qualifying for Europe next season, it has been yet another

successful campaign for the club's youth team.

Chelsea have won the FA Youth Cup four times in six seasons and have another final date against Manchester City to look forward to.

But veteran skipper John Terry was the last academy product to become a first-team regular and Cork believes Antonio Conte, who takes over Chelsea after leading Italy at Euro 2016 this summer, will attempt to resurrect the champions by investing heavily in the transfer market.

"I do see them spending big in the summer because they have got a history of spending big, haven't they?" said Cork.

"With a new manager coming in the pressure will be on him to win games - and it might take a while to bring through some of the youngsters."

# Poch holds key to 'special' era at Spurs - Vertonghen

**JAN Vertonghen believes Tottenham can do "something special" over the coming years if head coach Mauricio Pochettino remains in charge.**

This has been a season to remember at White Hart Lane, where Spurs have built on a promising first campaign under the former Argentina international by challenging for the title. Surprise leaders Leicester's seven-point cushion makes them strong favourites to win the Barclays Premier League, but Spurs' panache and substance has kept them in with a shout.

Sunday's 3-0 defeat of Champions League hopefuls Manchester United underlined their quality, which the Spurs head coach believes will only improve in the long-term.

Former Saints boss Pochettino said it is "impossible to set the limit on just what this group of players could achieve" and Vertonghen agrees wholeheartedly.

"Absolutely," the two-time Eredivisie champion at Ajax said when asked whether they had the spirit and ability to win the title.

"If you feel the spirit in this team, it is something special at the training ground, in between the players. It's everywhere.

"If you feel the buzz around the club, it's something I haven't experienced before in this way.

"I am extremely excited. It is something I have never experienced before and we have to keep this together.

"Not just the players, the squad as well, the crowd and then nice things can happen."

There still remains a chance of silverware this term, although the bookmakers' odds of 5/1 highlight the challenge Spurs face with five matches left.

The north London club could also soon face the challenge of swatting away interest from Europe's elite as Pochettino's standing in the game grows.

Sunday's win will have certainly caught Manchester United's eye and Vertonghen believes Pochettino is key to the bright future at White Hart Lane.

"For me it is vital," he said. "To keep this thing going, he has to stay.

"I think everyone wants him to stay and he feels that - that we want to fight for him and that this team is the best thing for him so I hope he stays."

The former Argentina defender has almost certainly led Tottenham back into the Champions League, while they are on course to finish above Arsenal for the first time in 21 years.

But it is the title they really want and that is not something they have given up on, despite Leicester's seven-point buffer.

"We have to believe," Vertonghen. "I think we showed belief on the pitch and obviously Leicester, compliments to them, but we have to try and chase them.

"For us, personally, it is important to win these games, to show the rest of the Premier League that we don't give up.

"That we're there and we're ready for next season as well. We will try to compete on every level and I think this team is capable of doing that."

Vertonghen was respectful when asked about Leicester but believes Tottenham are the "best team in the league at the moment".

As well as being part of the group, the Belgium international has spent nearly three months watching from the sidelines due to a knee injury.

Vertonghen's return got somewhat lost in the excitement of



"VITAL" TO SPURS: Mauricio Pochettino

Sunday's match, with his seamless reintroduction bringing another clean sheet.

"Hard," the defender said when asked how it has been to watch from the sidelines. "It is quite hard to be injured, especially when they are doing so well.

"When they're not doing well

you want to help them, of course, as well, so it is great to see them do well like this.

"I am very happy with the first game to come back. I am very pleased to be back. I felt very good, very confident. It was a great team to play (with) making it easier for me to come back."

## FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Monday, April 18

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Cambridge City v Paulton, Redditch v Kettering, Division One South & West: North Leigh v Shortwood.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Team Solent v Lyngington Town.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Senior Division: Fleetlands v Infinity (6.30), Hedge End Rangers v Otterbourne (6.30).

Tuesday, April 19

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

FC Halifax v Eastleigh, Woking v Grimsby.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Bath City v Whitehawk, Bishops Cleeve v Wealdstone, Concord v Truro.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Chesham v Merthyr, Histon v Hungerford, Poole Town v Bideford, Stratford v Dorchester, Weymouth v Cirencester.

Division One South & West: AFC Totton v Wimborne, Burnham v Didcot, Cinderford v Taunton.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Andover Town v Alesford, Bournemouth Poppies v Hamworthy Utd, Fareham v AFC Portchester, Horndean v Cowes Sports, Salisbury v Moneyfields.

Division One: East Cowes Vics v US Portsmouth, Fleet Spurs v Alton, Hythe & Dibden v Portland, Laverstock & Ford v AFC Stoneham, Tadley Calvea v Romsey Town, Totton & Eling v Pewsey Vale.

Wednesday, April 20

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Cambridge City v Kings Lynn.

Division One South & West: Larkhall v Tiverton, North Leigh v Bishops Cleeve, Slimbridge v Winchester City.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Bemerton HH, Fawley v Blackfield & Langley, Sholing v Verwood.

Division One: Amesbury v Christchurch.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Senior Division: Hamble Club v Hedge End Rangers (6.30), Infinity v Bush Hill (6.30), Winchester Castle v Colden Common (6.30).

Thursday, April 21

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Dunstable v Chesham.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Fareham v Team Solent, Horndean v Newport IOW.

Division One: Portland v Fleet Spurs.

Friday, April 22

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Moneyfields v AFC Portchester.

Saturday, April 23

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Aldershot v Southport, Altrincham v Welling, Boreham Wood v Guiseley, Eastleigh v Tranmere Rovers, Forest Green v FC Halifax, Gateshead v Bromley, Grimsby v Chester, Kidderminster v Dover, Lincoln v Woking, Macclesfield v Cheltenham, Torquay v Barrow, Wrexham v Braintree.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Basingstoke v Truro, Concord v Havant & Waterlooville, Dartford v Oxford City, Eastbourne Borough v Gosport Borough, Hayes & Yeading v Bath City, Margate v Hemel Hempstead, Sutton v Chelmsford City, Wealdstone v St Albans, Weston-super-Mare v Maidenhead, Whitehawk v Maidstone.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bideford v Biggleswade, Cambridge City v Poole Town, Chesham v Weymouth, Chippenham v Paulton, Dorchester v Kettering, Dunstable v Bedworth, Frome v Redditch, Histon v Cirencester, Hitchin v St Neots, Kings Lynn v Stratford, Leamington v Hungerford, Merthyr v Slough.

Division One South & West: Banbury v Taunton, Bishops Cleeve v Slimbridge, Burnham v Bridgwater, Larkhall v Cinderford, Mangotsfield v AFC Totton, Marlow v Evesham, North Leigh v Bashley, Shortwood v Winchester City, Swindon Supermarine v Didcot, Tiverton v Wantage, Wimborne v Yale.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bemerton HH v Alesford, Cowes Sports v Verwood, Fareham v Whitchurch, Folland Sports v Blackfield & Langley, Horndean v Bournemouth Poppies, Newport IOW v Lyngington Town, Salisbury v Hamworthy, Sholing v Andover Town, Team Solent v Brockenhurst.

Division One: AFC Stoneham v New Milton, Andover NS v Portland, Christchurch v Laverstock & Ford, Downton v East Cowes Vics, Hythe & Dibden v Amesbury, Pewsey Vale v Fleet Spurs, Tadley Calvea v Ringwood, Totton & Eling v Alton.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Senior Division: Clanfield v Overton, Fleetlands v Bush Hill, Headley Utd v Infinity, Hedge End Rangers v QK Southampton, Liss Athletic v Baffins Milton Rovers, Otterbourne v Hamble Club, Winchester Castle v Liphook.

Division One: AFC Petersfield v Sway, Four Marks v Hayling Utd, Netley Central Sports v Lyndhurst.



## Could Marcus follow these teen stars?

MARCUS Rashford's exceptional FA Cup strike has increased the clamour for the Manchester United teenager to be fast-tracked into the England squad in time for Euro 2016.

The 18-year-old marked his 11th successive senior start with a sixth United goal, showing quick feet, impressive composure and excellent technique to bend home the opener at West Ham on Wednesday evening.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five other teenagers that have been included in England squads at major tournaments in years gone by.

MICHAEL OWEN (WORLD CUP 1998, AGED 18)

A prime example of how a talented, unfettered player can make a huge impact on the biggest stage, Owen's fine form at Liverpool earned a place in Glenn Hoddle's squad for France, with him becoming England's youngest ever player at a World Cup when brought off the bench against Tunisia. The teenager appeared as a substitute against Romania and started the final group match against Colombia before going on to produce one of the national team's best ever goals in the last-16 tie with Argentina, darting through the middle and firing home with aplomb.

RIO FERDINAND (WORLD CUP 1998, AGED 19)

The 81-cap defender did not get the same chance to impress in France, having been included in Hoddle's squad at the age of



**Theo Walcott: Baffling call-up to the 2006 World Cup squad.**

19. The West Ham youth product made his debut against Cameroon the previous November and was restricted to a watching brief at the World Cup.

WAYNE ROONEY (EURO 2004, AGED 18)

The Everton teenager netted four in all during his first major tournament, with his fine form earning a place in UEFA's Team of the Tournament. Rooney has yet to scale those peaks at a major tournament since, but his 51 goals in 109 appearances have made him England's top scorer of all-time.

THEO WALCOTT (WORLD CUP 2006, AGED 17)

Still one of the most peculiar selections England have made for a major tournament, Walcott's fine displays at second-tier Saints earned a big-money move to Arsenal earlier that year, but the forward had yet to make his first-team debut for Arsene Wenger's men. Walcott did not appear once at the World Cup after making his debut in a warm-up friendly against Hungary.

LUKE SHAW (WORLD CUP 2014, AGED 18)

Another off the Southampton production line, but a player that had proved his worth in the Premier League when selected, even earning a place in the PFA Team of the Year. Shaw, joined in the squad by 19-year-old Raheem Sterling, would become the world's most expensive teenager when moving on to Manchester United after a World Cup in which he was the youngest player to feature. The left-back, chosen ahead of Ashley Cole, started the 0-0 draw with Costa Rica and became the second youngest player to represent England on the world stage after Owen.

# Students 'make it look



**Team Solent celebrate with the Southampton Senior Cup.**



**Tobi Adekunle, middle, has just put Solent 3-0 ahead.**



**Solent celebrate their third goal. All pictures by Stuart Martin.**

**IT'S hard to disagree with star man Jesse Waller-Lassen's assessment that Team Solent made their 5-0 Southampton Senior Cup final victory over Blackfield & Langley "look easy".**

On a memorable night at St Mary's Stadium, in which their captain Waller-Lassen played a key role, Solent swept to victory in sensational fashion as they retained the silverware for a second year running, **writes PETER HOWARD.**

Tobi Adekunle struck once in either half while Pip Nolan and Martin Johnson struck one apiece, before Waller-Lassen, who was voted man of the match, slotted home the fifth late on.

The victory is made even more spectacular when you consider that the Watersiders are flying high in second place in the Sydenham Premier Division, 11 points ahead of Solent in sixth before today's fixtures.

"It's the way we beat them," said Waller-Lassen, the ex-Tottenham academy striker who had a hand in three of the goals.

"Given the fact that they are second in our league, we think that surprised everyone.

"We didn't show much nervousness and went in confident – we made it look easy and that's what has made me so proud of our boys."

James Taylor's youthful team cruised into a 3-0 lead at half-time.

With just nine minutes gone, Waller-Lassen, who netted the winner in last season's final, turned on his swagger for the opener.

He dinked the ball into the box for the industrious Matt Sheedy to slam low at goal. Nolan was then on hand to crash home the rebound after Blackfield stopper Lloyd Thomas had saved well but spilt.

The opener was then followed by a superb header by Johnson from Waller-Lassen's floated cross for 2-0, before ex-Sholing wideman Adekunle slammed low on the half-volley into the net from the edge of the box.

Adekunle curled home his second from the right soon into the second period, after cutting in from the flank.

Waller-Lassen then pitched in with his own goal late on as he streamed through into the box and slotted home in style.

"It was an amazing night and all the players performed to a very high level and really deserved the win," said manager Taylor.

"To win the cup two years on the trot is a great achievement by everyone connected to the club."

**GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL [echosport@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:echosport@dailyecho.co.uk)**



# ok easy' at St Mary's



Jesse Waller-Lassen lifts the Man of the Match award.



Martin Johnson, left, celebrates Solent's second goal.



Team Solent celebrate with the Southampton Senior Cup.



Solent celebrate their fifth goal against Blackfield & Langley.



Jesse Waller-Lassen fires Solent's fifth goal.



Jesse Waller-Lassen celebrates scoring Solent's fifth goal.



Tobi Adekunle wheels away after scoring Solent's fourth goal.



Jesse Waller-Lassen receives the Southampton Senior Cup.

## Five cue stars to watch out for in Sheffield

STUART Bingham will defend his title at the Betfred World Snooker Championship after ploughing through the field to become a surprise winner 12 months ago.

Here are five cue stars to watch during the 17 days of snooker's number one tournament, as they bid to snatch the trophy away from Bingham.

1. Ronnie O'Sullivan: "Blink and you'll miss him" is the familiar guidance from tournament MC Rob Walker, and those switching on for the semi-finals last year would have wondered where O'Sullivan had gone. A quarter-final victim of Bingham's stunning run in 2015, O'Sullivan has captured the Masters and Welsh Open titles already this year and starts as favourite at the Crucible. Wholly unpredictable, his matches are unmissable because of the drama that frequently occurs.

2. Judd Trump: Five year ago, as a near unknown, Trump won the China Open and weeks later as a qualifier reached the World Championship final. This year he has captured the China Open title again and reports his confidence is at an all-time high going to Sheffield. Utterly thrilling to watch when at his best, the Bristolian left-hander is surely a world champion in



Judd Trump is one to watch in Sheffield.

3. Neil Robertson: The 'Thunder from Down Under' carried off the world title in 2010 and has the ideal patience and character required for the 17-day marathon. A good friend of Chelsea captain John Terry, the Australian landed the Champion of Champions and UK Championship titles before Christmas.

4. Shaun Murphy: For 16 days of last year's World Championship, Murphy looked good for the title. Come day 17 his overnight lead was swallowed up by Bingham, his good friend, who upset the odds to lift the trophy. A winner of this tournament in 2005, and a dedicated student of the game, Murphy has had a season with more downs than ups, but he triumphed at the World Grand Prix last month.

5. Mark Allen: Northern Irishman Allen has struggled to do himself justice on the biggest stage since his 2009 semi-final appearance, with a series of early exits proving painful. But if there is to be a surprise champion this year his name springs to mind as a dark horse. The 30-year-old has enjoyed a strong season in which he has landed the Players Championship title, reached another final and two semi-finals.



## Sheffield's sporting aces in top form

SHEFFIELD was celebrating another sporting success story after Danny Willett's stunning victory in the US Masters.

Willett's nerveless triumph lifted him among the list of Steel City stars who are proving to be on top of their game.

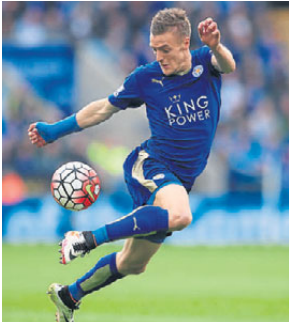
And Willett was not the only Sheffield man to shine in Georgia as 21-year-old Matt Fitzpatrick finished seventh.

Here, the Sports Pink picks out five other Sheffield-born stars who are currently taking their respective sports by storm:

**JAMIE VARDY:** Vardy struck his 20th and 21st goals of the season at the weekend to maintain Leicester's improbable Premier League title challenge.

Born in Sheffield, Vardy was released by Wednesday at the age of 16 and went on to star for nearby Stocksbridge Park Steels, combining his early playing career with a job making medical splints.

**KELL BROOK:** The current IBF welterweight champion continues a fine recent tradition of Sheffield boxing stars stretching back to the likes of Naseem Hamed and Johnny Nelson, both of whom also trained in Brendan Ingle's Wincobank gym. Brook retained



Leicester City's Jamie Vardy hails from Sheffield. his title two weeks ago with a routine win over Canadian Kevin Biazar.

**JESSICA ENNIS-HILL:** The all-conquering heptathlon star is aiming to add to her list of honours at this summer's Rio Olympics.

Ennis-Hill was born in Sheffield and introduced to athletics at a junior open day at Don Valley Stadium in the summer holidays of 1996. Shortly afterwards, she joined the City of Sheffield Athletics Club, and a star was born.

**JOE ROOT:** Root's recent Twenty20 heroics in India might have ended in heartbreak as England fell short in a dramatic final against the West Indies. But he has risen a long way since he started playing cricket on a sports scholarship at school in Sheffield, later following his father by joining the Sheffield Collegiate club.

**NICK MATTHEW:** Squash star Matthew was born in Sheffield and plays for the Hallamshire club, whose main court is now named after him. He is a three-time world champion and won a superb final against Yorkshire rival James Willstrop to retain his men's singles title at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.

# 'If I make a mistake

JAMIE Thoroughgood is talking about his down time, a relatively unfamiliar commodity in a life with no room for margins, *writes PAUL McNAMARA.*

"I don't think you can ever switch off. If you don't care when you go home then I don't think you're properly engaged in the process. It is horrible at times," says the Winchester City player.

"Sometimes you think you have made a mistake, or haven't done your best, and it's hard to take.

"You have to be able to talk to people and I am lucky to have a supportive family."

But, right now, Thoroughgood isn't talking in his guise as a defender for a team currently in the thick of a Southern League Division One South & West promotion battle, writes Paul McNamara.

This is the junior doctor speaking. A man balancing his two-year foundation training at East Surrey Hospital in Redhill, with the rigours of a competitive non-league football career.

It is a juggling act to which the 23-year-old has become accustomed. Thoroughgood completed his five-year Bachelor of Medicine course at University Hospital Southampton (UHS) last year, a feat accomplished against the backdrop of his ongoing football commitments. He is currently engaged in a four-month block at East Surrey Hospital specialising in respiratory medicine.

"I work 50-60 hours a week, in theory," he says. "Invariably it is longer. But it's rewarding. I don't ever begrudge being there. If I finish late I'm not thinking about the extra money I should be earning."

"I'm still enjoying the job. I want to get up and do it. It's stressful, but it's still fresh and exciting."

This is a story that encompasses life and death, medicine in the Solomon Islands, rugby at Twickenham, promotion and relegation on the football pitch, famous fellow sporting alumni and personal medical setbacks - primarily a displaced shoulder and an enlarged spleen.

And it has its roots in Thoroughgood's accomplished footballing display for his primary school, Atwood in Croydon, against Whitgift School.

His dreams of making the professional grade already being stoked by his place with Wimbledon FC's academy, the 11-year-old Thoroughgood was subsequently invited for interview at a school renowned for its sporting prowess.

This, he believes, was the making of the man sitting down today, sipping a coffee and picking through the past 12 years: years packed with a lifetime's worth of experiences.

With the modesty and level-headedness that it quickly becomes apparent are embedded character traits, however, Thoroughgood's tone when reflecting on his schooling opportunity is purely one of gratitude.

## But Winchester's Jamie is NOT talking about football!



Jamie Thoroughgood, centre, in action for Winchester this season.

"I wasn't particularly bright," he says. "But a school like Whitgift teaches you how to learn, how to pass exams and also all about the sports side of things."

"I was very fortunate to be given the chance to go to a school like Whitgift. My background isn't medical, so for my dad to be able to give me that opportunity...I had to take it."

"It was an important part of my life and I hugely enjoyed it. Even though the football didn't ultimately work out, it was when I was improving academically that I realised I would like to do medicine. I enjoy the sciences, but also talking to people, helping people, applying your brain to a puzzle. It's all excit-

ing stuff.

"Maybe as a kid I was blind to the darker side of medicine. You see people at their most vulnerable. You see people dying and people suffering. It's not a nice part of the job. But it is nice that you can help people in that profession."

Thoroughgood's work ethic is inherited from dad Terry, a fruit and veg trader in south London. Sister Grace, 18, studies Bioveterinary Sciences at university. Brother Billy, two years Jamie's junior, is pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering.

"I come from a working family," he says. "I'm not shy of hard work. My dad gets up at 3am to buy his veg, and doesn't get back until five

or six at night. I don't work those hours.

"His job is incredibly stressful. He's dealing with the public all the time and if he doesn't sell his vegetables then he doesn't make any profit. That's a different kind of stress."

"I suppose the only caveat is that if he makes a mistake he doesn't make any money..."

"If you're a junior doctor who is a senior registrar in medicine or surgery then you're making life changing decisions. And if you're tired and overworked and you have a new contract coming in that is removing the safeguards which prevent you from being overworked, then you have to look out for your-

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# it's hard to take ...'



self and your own practice."

We return later to the subject of that contract, which the government intends to impose on junior doctors from August 1.

It is a subject on which Thoroughgood speaks passionately. But also with a degree of equanimity, the product of a close-knit background in every corner of his life.

"My parents (mum Sally is a hairdresser) have both have been so important in my life," he says. "My dad always says you can only give somebody an opportunity - it is up to you to take it."

Given that Southampton's Bachelor of Medicine programme typically attracts 4,000 applicants for its 206 annual places, Thorough-

good has unequivocally grasped the chances directed his way.

Turned down by Cambridge, but accepted onto the same course in Cardiff, he delighted he chose the south coast - from both professional and personal perspectives.

"You do get a real university experience," he says of his time at UHS. "There's a real community of medics, all friendly and from a range of backgrounds. I even got involved with the medics football team."

Thoroughgood can recall in almost microscopic detail each element of his five-year learning process in Southampton. After two years of predominantly theory based study, he was thrust into the hurly-burly hospital environment.

"It is quite overwhelming when you move into your clinical years in year three," he says. "But you do feel relatively prepared for it. Having studied the core sciences, you learn about different disease processes in the hospital."

"On your cardiology rotation, for example, you might learn about heart failure, infective endocarditis and acute coronary syndrome - and then you move on."

"I suppose what separates medicine from a lot of other degrees is that you have to remember most of the stuff! It's a spiral curriculum, where things build up on top of each other."

And while he was toiling away on his rounds, accumulating the

knowledge to save lives and change lives, Thoroughgood's devotion to his football never wavered.

Indeed, in season 2013/2014 he was back in the heart of Guildford City's defence, albeit in an ultimately futile fight to avoid the drop back into the Combined Counties League.

Nevertheless, Thoroughgood accomplished the rare deed of emerging from a relegation campaign with credit, sweeping the board at the club's awards night.

He had actually missed the start of the season, before being tempted back to Guildford.

The reason for his initial absence was an elective (a period working away from medical school) spent in the Solomon Islands.

"I went with three other mates for something different," Thoroughgood says.

"We met doctors and medical students from all over: Fiji, Vanuatu. It's a completely different style of medicine, different pathologies."

"I learned a lot out there, it was also just a great opportunity to spend time with friends and experience a different culture."

"You see the limitations to their practice. While working in the NHS you must be aware it is a finite resource - if I order a set of bloods it costs the NHS, and that fund, money - but it is nothing compared with the limitations they work within in the Solomon Islands."

"They have to use medical therapies for conditions such as hydrocephalus (a build-up of fluid on the brain) which are proven not to work. But they're using them because there's nothing else. It was sad to see, but eye opening."

Despite the popular conception that doctors are being forced overseas by NHS working practices, a situation potentially set to be exacerbated by the proposed new contract, which will impose longer working hours on junior doctors, as well as changing what constitute the unsocial hours which attract additional pay, Thoroughgood doesn't envisage upping sticks himself.

He says: "I'm so close to my family I probably wouldn't. I'm very lucky that medicine gives you that opportunity. But they wouldn't want me to go."

"I know with what is happening some people think we're better off in Australia, or elsewhere. I don't buy into that."

"I like the NHS. I want to work for the NHS."

And he can speak from both sides of the fence. The memory of the pain and frustration of his stricken predicament is writ large across Thoroughgood's face as he recalls being beset by glandular fever in January 2013.

"I hated it. I lost a lot of weight. I had a big spleen ... I had this big rash. I was wasting away, sweating in bed at night. I couldn't wait to get back and play."

*continued on page 20*

## Lessons we have learned from Masters

DANNY Willett won the 80th Masters after a dramatic final round which saw defending champion Jordan Spieth lose a five-shot lead with nine holes to play.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at what we learned from the year's first major championship:

### 1 - Willett deserves his place in Masters history

Much will be made of Spieth's collapse to a back nine of 41, but Willett deserves huge credit for a bogey-free 67 which, in his own words, ensured he was in a position to "pounce" on the American's mistakes. As a former world number one amateur, Willett always had the potential to shine in the professional ranks, although his progress was hampered by ongoing back issues.

### 2 - Spieth is human after all

Following his wire-to-wire victory in 2015, Spieth opened with a 66 this year and went on to extend his streak of holding the outright lead to a record seven rounds. However, the 22-year-old also recorded three double bogeys and a quadruple bogey in the next three rounds.

### 3 - Rory McIlroy is feeling the pressure

McIlroy arrived at Augusta feeling



### Surprise US Masters champion Danny

less "exposed" than 12 months earlier when he finished fourth in his first attempt to complete the career grand slam. And for 36 holes that looked like paying off as he produced two workmanlike rounds to lie just a shot behind Spieth heading into the weekend. In the end, he succumbed to the pressure of trying to join Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods in winning all four majors. "I'm trying to deal with the pressure of it and the thrill of the achievement if it were to happen. That's the thing that's really holding me back," he said.

### 4 - Europe's Ryder Cup team is in good shape

Leaving aside Willett, Europe also had Lee Westwood, Paul Casey, Matt Fitzpatrick, Soren Kjeldsen, Hampshire's Justin Rose and McIlroy in the top 10 at Augusta, although Casey is currently not a European Tour member and is therefore ineligible.

### 5 - Slow play remains a problem

One of the few things to mar a dramatic championship was the glacial pace of play, with Spieth and world number one Jason Day among the biggest culprits. It will take a high-profile player receiving a shot penalty in a crucial situation before anything changes.



## 147 break in five mins and 20 seconds

**SNOOKER'S** World Championship begins at the Crucible this weekend, and it will be the 40th to be staged at the famous venue.

Here is a selection of fascinating facts about the sport's most prestigious tournament.

1. The Crucible has staged snooker's premier event since 1977, after tournament promoter Mike Watterson was told by wife Carol the theatre was perfect for the sport. She had watched a play there, and on her advice Watterson took the World Championship to a venue with which it has become synonymous.

2. Golf's newest major winner, Masters champion Danny Willett, is a big snooker fan and visited the Crucible last year. Sheffield ace Willett played a frame with Mark Allen on the practice tables before watching live action from the table-side press seats.

3. Snooker is more rock and roll than you might imagine. Recent visitors to the tournament have included Iron Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain, Muse frontman Matt Bellamy and Pulp's Jarvis Cocker.

4. Ronnie O'Sullivan plundered the fastest 147 maximum break in snooker history at the 1997 World Championship, making the perfect



Ronnie O'Sullivan recorded the fastest Crucible 147 in history, clearance in a bewilderingly rapid five minutes and 20 seconds against Mick Price.

5. Promoters in Beijing have built a replica Crucible, as they make overtures to take the World Championship to China. Having been told the Crucible had a unique nature, the cheekily identical set-up could make China's case all the more persuasive in future. However Sheffield has the tournament until at least 2017, and reports have indicated a longer-term deal may be close to being confirmed.

6. The current world champion Stuart Bingham claimed the ultimate scalp on his Crucible debut, when as a 23-year-old qualifier in 2000 he beat seven-time winner Stephen Hendry 10-7 in the first round, causing one of the tournament's greatest upsets.

7. There have been 10 maximum breaks at the World Championship. Canadian Cliff Thorburn made the first in 1983, while Stephen Hendry and O'Sullivan have each fired three, with Jimmy White, Ali Carter and Mark Williams the other men to achieve the feat. Hendry made the most recent World Championship maximum, on day one of the 2012 tournament. Robert Milkins has made two 147s in the qualifying rounds.

Continued on facing page

# City slicker with a Tw

from page 19

"The trouble is that when you get splenomegaly (an enlarged spleen) it is more likely to rupture. So if you've had glandular fever you have to leave it four to six weeks before playing again. It was so frustrating."

The doctor inherent in Thoroughgood's make-up is never far away. He involuntarily launches into an explanation about the spleen being the organ within the intra-abdominal cavity most prone to rupture, and therefore the importance for checking on its condition in anybody involved in a road traffic accident.

It is a brief insight into the bedside manner of a doctor who is plainly absorbed by his profession. But if he'd had his way in his early teenage years, Thoroughgood would now be playing football for a living.

Wimbledon's controversial move to Milton Keynes saw him switch to the Millwall Academy. But after six months at The Den, during which time the man who had spotted him, David Tuttle, shifted from the youth set-up to become first-team manager, Thoroughgood was left seeking his breakthrough elsewhere.

One trial at Brighton was curtailed when a fellow player was airlifted to hospital with a neck injury, with that particular opportunity never coming round again.

A knee injury hampered a similar chance with Crystal Palace, the club he was first taken to watch by his Eagles supporting dad. Thoroughgood ended up a West Ham fan, but not before being enchanted by the spellbinding skills of Sasa Curcic.

Indeed, in explaining his adoration for mercurial Serbian Curcic, and then his reasons for pledging his allegiance to the team from the East End, Thoroughgood reveals his free-spirited side. The aspect of a character you wouldn't first associate with a strapping centre half and student of medicine.

Curcic, after all, is renowned for his purchase of a double decker 'party' bus during his time at Aston Villa. He retired, aged 29, with the stated aim of having more sex.

"I used to love Sasa Curcic," says Thoroughgood. "After watching him, me and dad used to go to the park and do step-overs and Cruyff turns. They occasionally come out in the warm-up now, but not so much in the games."

"But my uncle took me to a West Ham UEFA Cup game against Steaua Bucharest. It was just... something else. All these young lads. Joe Cole fearlessly running at players. Paolo Di Canio, Trevor Sinclair, Rio Ferdinand, Shaka Hislop. It was just a cool club. I loved it."

Thoroughgood was only 14 when he accepted that his route into pro football had probably hit a dead end.

"Sometimes it's not meant to be," he says, without a trace of self-pity. "I'm not that quick. I'm strong. But



Jamie Thoroughgood thanks Winchester fans for their support after Tuesday's Senior Cup final at St Mary's.



Winchester players salute their fans at St Mary's.

the centre halves coming through now are 6ft 2", 6ft 3", and just that bit nipper.

"I don't regret it for a second. I love what I do and I love playing a good level of football alongside it."

The love for his sport wasn't tarnished by the dislocated shoulder he suffered playing for Bashley at Fleet in 2014. Thoroughgood does, however, dismiss as apocryphal – and with an incredulous laugh, to boot – tales that he promptly put the offending shoulder back in its place.

"I did not put it in myself. It came out and I thought 'that didn't half hurt'. We went to the hospital in Frimley and within an hour it went back in."

"I think the boys thought I was being quite brave, but it did hurt. Initially, with the endorphins and adrenaline, when the physio came on I was happy to keep playing, stand up front and make a nuisance of myself. But the referee told me the game was over."

Back to school, and before leaving Whitgift Thoroughgood had

applied that strength of body and mind to another sporting triumph. He was part of his school's rugby team that won the prestigious Daily Mail Schools Under-18 Cup.

The identity of a few of his colleagues in the Whitgift side that beat Royal Grammar School Newcastle 34-10 in the 2010 Twickenham final offers a gauge of how good that team was.

Elliot Daly, the Wasps player capped three times by England, and Harlequins' seven-cap England international Marlon Yarde were

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# Wickers win on his CV



The body language says it all as Winchester players reflect on Hampshire Senior Cup final defeat.



Action from Winchester's Senior Cup final loss to Havant at St Mary's. All pictures by Stuart Martin.

stand out components.

So too Lawrence Okoye, whose athletic pedigree would carry him through a 12th-place finish in the discus at the London Olympics and onto his current incarnation - playing American Football for NFL outfit New York Jets.

"Elliot Daly was just a natural sportsman," recalls Thoroughgood. "Marlon Yarde had excellent feet. He was so fast, so strong.

"And they're both lovely gentlemen."

That last sentence is delivered

with a reverence equal to that which Thoroughgood accords the two superstars for their sporting gifts.

Of his own successful flirtation with rugby, Thoroughgood says: "I took it seriously. You have to at Whitgift.

"I was a good rugby player. I ended up in the front row. I'm not quite sure how. I came to the school as a footballer and they put me in the rugby team as a hooker. And I was a slight lad at school.

"It's a slightly different atmos-

phere in a rugby dressing room. There's more focus before the game. People are thinking about that first hit, that first tackle. There are more set pieces than in football as well, so many things to practise.

"It was just great to be a part of it. In the last-16 we were away at St. Benedict's. I played in that, then went and played football for Guildford in the afternoon.

"The final was incredible. The whole school was there. It was an unbelievable occasion. We were

the best team in that competition. We had the best players. I have never played any sport in front of a crowd that big and on such a big stage."

Thoroughgood's school days, spent keeping a number of plates spinning simultaneously, would prove the ideal grounding for today's hectic existence.

But how is it possible to blend such an intense career with retaining the necessary fitness to perform on the football pitch each week?

"It's just managing your time," says Thoroughgood. "There is an art to medicine. But I couldn't do what some of my friends do. I know a lad who is in Amsterdam doing a PhD in astronomy. He's an incredibly intelligent man. Looking at his physics when we were studying together in the library, I just thought it was phenomenal. But the brain works in different ways.

"Managers have always let me train when I want, keep myself fit and play. I would go out with my mates at university, but I had to be sensible."

Thoroughgood is grateful that his Winchester boss, Paul Masters, trusts the player to take care of himself.

And Masters' faith appears well-placed - even if his burly defender admits there are days when he'd rather swerve the gym.

He says: "It's nice when my cousin's back from uni. Then we motivate each other to go. Otherwise I have to get myself up in the morning.

"You don't know when you're going to finish work. So I try and get to the gym at 6am and do a weights session, then get to work. Then I can relax in the evening. If there's interesting stuff I want to learn about and read about then I might want to get my head in the books."

It's that sort of dedication which Thoroughgood says, regardless of the unique sense of perspective lent to him by his job, prevents him ever losing his competitive sporting instincts.

"I spend a lot of my off-time thinking about football," he confesses. "If we're winning it's exciting. I hate losing. I like to think I'm a winner and that I get people around me to want to win.

"Losing can frustrate and annoy me - and ruin my Saturday night... and my Sunday.

"It does still get me down. And if I'm not playing I will always tell Paul that I'm frustrated by that.

"Equally, I have to understand we have three excellent centre-halves. Rob Flooks (formerly with Eastleigh and Gosport Borough): he's such a nice chap and an excellent footballer. And (ex-Spurs and England youth defender) Leigh Mills... is Leigh Mills. I'm learning a lot from both of them. And I hope they're learning from me."

● Don't miss part two of Paul McNamara's revealing interview with Jamie Thoroughgood in next week's Sports Pink.

## On top of the World - 15 times over!

from facing page

8. Scottish players have won 12 of the last 26 World Championship titles, with Stephen Hendry claiming a Crucible era record of seven (1990-92-93-94-95-96-99), John Higgins four (1998-2007-2009-2011) and Graeme Dott one (2006).

9. Derbyshire player Joe Davis was the first world champion in 1927 and won all 15 editions of the tournament he entered. His last title came in 1946 when he retired unbeaten from the World Championship.

10. Only two players entered the 1931 World Championship. Tom Dennis, in whose pub the event was staged, lost 25-21 to Joe Davis.

11. The youngest world champion was Stephen Hendry in 1990. The Scot was just 21 when he beat Jimmy White 18-12.

12. In 2005 Shaun Murphy became the first player to come through qualifying and win the world title. Judd Trump almost matched him in 2011 but lost out to John Higgins in the final.

13. A British television audience of 18.5million watched Dennis Taylor beat



Six-times beaten World finalist Jimmy White.

Steve Davis on the final black in the 1985 final. It set a viewing record for BBC Two and a post-midnight record for all channels, both of which still stand.

14. There has been only one whitewash in a match at the World Championship. It came in the first round in 1992, when 62-year-old Australian Eddie Charlton was beaten 10-0 by defending champion John Parrott.

15. Jimmy White, Walter Donaldson and Fred Davis have each lost six finals - a record. White, unlike Donaldson and Davis, has never been a world champion and lost this year in the first round of qualifying.

16 The first championship was held in 1927. Ten professionals entered including most of the leading billiards players. The first match played was between Melbourne Inman and Tom Newman at Thurston's Hall, Leicester Square, London. The snooker was played as an added extra to the main event, a billiards match played over two weeks. The match started on Monday 29 November 1926 and one frame of snooker was played at the end of each session. Inman won 8-5, the match finishing on the Monday afternoon - a week after it started



## Trio in with a chance of PFA history

JAMIE Vardy, Riyad Mahrez and N'Golo Kante are in the running to become Leicester City's first ever PFA Player of the Year

Earlier this week the Foxes trio were named on a six-man list for the award alongside Harry Kane, Mesut Ozil and Dimitri Payet.

Here is a list of all the previous winners, with Kevin Keegan the only Saint on the list in 1981/82.

Surprisingly, Pat Jennings in 1976 is the only goalkeeper ever to win the award.

### PFA Player of the Year

1973/74 – Norman Hunter (Leeds United)  
 1974/75 – Colin Todd (Derby County)  
 1975/76 – Pat Jennings (Tottenham Hotspur)  
 1976/77 – Andy Gray (Aston Villa)  
 1977/78 – Peter Shilton (Nottingham Forest)  
 1978/79 – Liam Brady (Arsenal)  
 1979/80 – Terry McDermott (Liverpool)  
 1980/81 – John Wark (Ipswich)  
 1981/82 – Kevin Keegan (SAINTS)  
 1982/83 – Kenny Dalglish (Liverpool)  
 1983/84 – Ian Rush (Liverpool)



Jamie Vardy.

1984/85 – Peter Reid (Everton)  
 1985/86 – Gary Lineker (Everton)  
 1986/87 – Clive Allen (Tottenham)  
 1987/88 – John Barnes (Liverpool)  
 1988/89 – Mark Hughes (Man United)  
 1989/90 – David Platt (Aston Villa)  
 1990/91 – Mark Hughes (Man United)  
 1991/92 – Gary Pallister (Man United)  
 1992/93 – Paul McGrath (Aston Villa)  
 1993/94 – Eric Cantona (Man United)  
 1994/95 – Alan Shearer (Blackburn)  
 1995/96 – Les Ferdinand (Newcastle)  
 1996/97 – Alan Shearer (Newcastle)  
 1997/98 – Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenal)  
 1998/99 – David Ginola (Tottenham)  
 1999/00 – Roy Keane (Man United)  
 2000/01 – Teddy Sheringham (Man United)  
 2001/02 – Ruud Van Nistlerooy (Man United)  
 2002/03 – Thierry Henry (Arsenal)  
 2003/04 – Thierry Henry (Arsenal)  
 2004/05 – John Terry (Chelsea)  
 2005/06 – Steven Gerrard (Liverpool)  
 2006/07 – Cristiano Ronaldo (Man United)  
 2007/08 – Cristiano Ronaldo (Man United)  
 2008/09 – Ryan Giggs (Man United)  
 2009/10 – Wayne Rooney (Man United)  
 2010/11 – Gareth Bale (Tottenham)  
 2011/12 – Robin Van Persie (Arsenal)  
 2012/13 – Gareth Bale (Tottenham)  
 2013/14 – Luis Suarez (Liverpool)  
 2014/15 – Eden Hazard (Chelsea)

# Kings' out to take treble



Kings' School teams celebrate with their trophies

**KINGS' of Winchester go for a stunning Hampshire Schools FA treble next Wednesday (4.30pm) when their Year 11s play Romsey in the county under-16 final at Team Solent's Test Stadium.**

They go for a trophy hat-trick on the way of this week's successes in the Under-16 Girls Cup and the Under-13 Boys trophy.

The girls won the county Under-16 Cup with a 4-1 win over Fareham-based Cams Hill, while the boys edged a 1-0 victory against neighbours Westgate at Under-13 level.

● Patrick Berry-Green's ice-cold finish won the Hampshire Schools FA Under-13 Boys Cup for Kings' at the expense of arch local Winchester rivals Westgate.

He broke clear of the Westgate defence eight minutes into the second and held his nerve before chipping goalkeeper Bruno Matley with an exquisite lob to give Kings' a 1-0 victory, *writes Mike Vimpany*.

But had luck been with them. Westgate might have won an evenly fought cup final themselves.

No matter how they tried – and how they tried in the second half – Westgate couldn't find a way through.

They might have had an inclination that it wasn't to be their day when Dougie Swales climbed above the Kings' defence at the end of the first half.

His header from a corner couldn't have been better or cleaner – yet it struck the inside of the far upright and bounced out.



Kings' captains with their trophies.



Action from the boys final. Above right – Saints legend Mick Channon with his grandson, who plays for Westgate.

It was a moment of quality in a first half in which both sides – who make up the bulk of the Eastleigh & Winchester U13 district team – effectively cancelled each other out.

After Berry-Green had scored what proved to be Kings' winner, Kyle Sanders took it upon himself to try and level things up.

His powerful runs unsettled the Kings' defence and on several oc-

casions he came within an ace of equalising.

Kings', under increasing pressure, kept their shape, but in a cliff-hanger of a finish held their breath as Oli Mikalski screamed a shot towards goal, only for it to take a wicked deflection and fly inches off target.

Then, with the referee checking his watch, Berry-Green broke clear



Kings' score against Westgate School.



on his own again – only for Matley to beat out his shot on the edge of the Westgate penalty box.

● Local pride and bragging rights will be at stake when Kings' face off against Romsey in the Hampshire Schools' Under-16 Cup final at Team Solent's Test Park Stadium next Wednesday.

In the previous rounds, Kings'

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# chance and hit jackpot



Westgate U13s

beat Yateley 4-0 and Connaught 5-2 before getting the better of Priestlands in a penalty shoot-out.

Romsey knocked out Fernhill 3-1, Fort Hill 1-0 and Springfield 3-1 before beating twice recent champions Salesian 3-0.

**Kings':** Alfie Glover, Dan Holt, James Pike, Alejandro Arguelles, Charlie Wallbridge, Conor Nolan, Nick Doubell, Jo Sutherland, Joe Maybe, Ben Parkinson, Jack Down, Kanya Mshweni, Oli Hall, Will Thompson, Mark Macaulay.  
**Romsey:** George Ockwell, Morgan Callaway, Alex Haynes, Navraj Lakhuri, Regan Fellingham, Levi Greenough, Haydn Barnes, Mitchell Wheeler, Sam Tyas, Alex Robinson, Markos Stewart, Jamie Marshall, Aaron Whitmarsh, Zishan Ur-Rehman, Jake Wellcoat, Bradley Gettings, David Curtiss.

● Stella Gandee-Morgan scored twice as Kings' beat Cams Hill 4-1 to win the Hampshire Under-16 Girls Cup.

That was a timely confidence booster ahead of next month's English Schools' FA Cup final.

Kings', who face St Bedes from Blackburn in the national final at the Manchester City Academy Stadium on May 6, were favourites to lift the Hampshire trophy, *writes Freddie Molyneux.*

They came out of the blocks quickest, creating a few good chances in the early stages.

Soon their pressure paid off as Lauren Harper fed the ball through to Kate Wiseman, who smartly rolled the ball into the bottom right corner to give Kings' the lead.

That advantage was doubled just five minutes later as Gandee-Morgan's strike hit the arm of a Cams Hill defender and the Kings' top scorer gleefully converted the resulting penalty.

Kings' continued to push for another goal and forced Cams Hill goalkeeper Charlotte Wiczorek into a number of smart stops.

But Cams Hill stood firm – but



Stella Gandee-Morgan, top left, scores for Kings'. Other pictures show action from the final

were relieved to hear the half-time whistle.

The second half started brightly for Cams, who were gunning for that elusive goal to get them back in the tie.

Striker Bobby Davies looked threatening, showing some blistering pace to get through the Kings' defence but without the finish to match.

Kings' also had a few chances but some fantastic defending from Ellie Towilson – who was excellent throughout for Cams Hill – prevented

ed Kings from grabbing a third.

The game was perfectly poised with both teams showing a great competitive spirit and determination to win.

It was Kings who found the third goal midway through the second half to essentially kill off the tie.

After a melee in the box, the ball dropped to Gandee-Morgan who struck home to make it 3-0.

A lesser team would have given up at this point, but the Cams Hill players showed an unbelievable attitude to fight back and grabbed



themselves a goal a few minutes later. Chelsea ladies prospect Beth Burgess put in a crunching tackle in midfield before setting free Bobby Davies, who fired past the Cams Hill goalie.

But Cams Hill's glimmer of hope was crushed just moments later as Lauren Harper crashed in a shot from a tight angle to put the game to bed at 4-1.

The match was a real advocate for women's football and was played at a fast tempo with some full-blooded tackles from both sides.

## Kane aiming to retain his PFA award

TOTTENHAM duo Harry Kane and Dele Alli have both been nominated for the PFA Young Player of the Year award.

The England internationals are joined by Everton duo Ross Barkley and Romelu Lukaku.

Liverpool playmaker Philippe Coutinho and Stoke goalkeeper Jack Butland complete the six-man shortlist.

Here is a list of all former winners, with two Saints – Steve Moran and Matt Le Tissier – among them.

### Previous winners

1973/74 – Kevin Beattie (Ipswich)  
1974/75 – Mervyn Day (West Ham)  
1975/76 – Peter Barnes (Man City)  
1976/77 – Andy Gray (Aston Villa)  
1977/78 – Tony Woodcock (Nott

Forest)

1978/79 – Cyrille Regis (WBA)  
1979/80 – Glenn Hoddle (Tottenham)  
1980/81 – Gary Shaw (Aston Villa)  
1981/82 – Steve Moran

(SAINTS)

1982/83 – Ian Rush (Liverpool)  
1983/84 – Paul Walsh (Luton Town)  
1984/85 – Mark Hughes (Man United)  
1985/86 – Tony Cottee (West Ham)  
1986/87 – Tony Adams (Arsenal)  
1987/88 – Paul Gascoigne



Steve Moran won the Young Player of the Year award in 1981/82.

(Newcastle)

1988/89 – Paul Merson (Arsenal)

1989/90 – Matt Le Tissier

(SAINTS)

1990/91 – Lee Sharpe (Man United)

1991/92 – Ryan Giggs (Man United)

1992/93 – Ryan Giggs (Man United)

1993/94 – Andy Cole (Newcastle)

1994/95 – Robbie Fowler (Liverpool)

1995/96 – Robbie Fowler (Liverpool)

1996/97 – David Beckham (Man

United)

1997/98 – Michael Owen (Liverpool)

1998/99 – Nicolas Anelka (Arsenal)

1999/00 – Harry Kewell (Leeds)

2000/01 – Steven Gerrard (Liverpool)

2001/02 – Craig Bellamy (Newcastle)

2002/03 – Jermaine Jenas

(Newcastle)

2003/04 – Scott Parker (Charlton)

2004/05 – Wayne Rooney (Man

United)

2005/06 – Wayne Rooney (Man

United)

2006/07 – Cristiano Ronaldo (Man

United)

2007/08 – Cesc Fabregas (Arsenal)

2008/09 – Ashley Young (Aston Villa)

2009/10 – James Milner (Aston Villa)

2010/11 – Jack Wilshere (Arsenal)

2011/12 – Kyle Walker (Tottenham)

2012/13 – Gareth Bale (Tottenham)



SOUTHERN  
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### RESULTS



**CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES**  
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2016  
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Saturday,  
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**Daily Echo**



## Hampshire boss is a fan of 'non-toss' rule



Brad Wheal

HAMPSHIRE know have the option to bowl first against Yorkshire at Headingley - before they get on the coach.

Director of cricket Giles White is a fan of the new Specsavers County Championship rule that sees the toss take place only when the away side wants to bat first, writes Simon Walter.

White said: "It'll be interesting to see how it pans out over the next few weeks but it is an advantage early season."

"The intentions are good. I like the idea behind it - playing on better wickets and spinners coming into the game."

"I'm all for trying new things."

With Reece Topley injured, Hampshire are expected to hand a first appearance of the season to Chris Wood or Brad Wheal tomorrow.

Tom Alsop continues to deputise for Jimmy Adams (ankle).

Hampshire will be up against several England stars including

Jonny Bairstow, one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year, in the first game of Yorkshire's title defence.

"If we perform as we can we're a match for any team," said White.

Hampshire (from): Carberry, Alsop, Vince, Smith, Dawson, Ervine, Wheeler, McLaren, Wood, Crane, Tomlinson, Wheal, Edwards. Yorkshire (from): Lees, Lyth, Ballance, Gale, Bairstow, Leaning, Rhodes, Patterson, Rashid, Brooks, Plunkett, Sidebottom, Willey.

# Just what IS the priority for many counties these days?

## T20 game changer

**THE** cricketing landscape has changed so much since Hampshire were last crowned county champions. That is no big surprise: the county's second, and last, first class title win was back in 1973.

That was the year the United Kingdom became a fully-fledged member of the European Economic Community, writes **SIMON CARTER**.

All these years on, Hampshire have rarely got close to landing a third county title and now the UK could be on the brink of quitting Europe.

Back in 1973, Hampshire played 20 three-day games en route to winning the title.

The 40-over John Player Sunday League was only four years old, and no-one could have envisaged a day when thousands turned up to watch games lasting only 20 overs per side.

But that is the reality of cricket in the 21st century, and it leaves the 18 first class counties with one burning question to answer:

What is top of their list of priorities?

Is it winning the county championship, and with it the undisputed tag of 'best team in the country'?

Or is it attempting to build a T20 squad packed with box office appeal, in a bid to ensure packed houses - and therefore lucrative income - for all their home games?

Make no mistake, the shortest form of the sport has revolutionised the county game.

We have already come a long way from the days of 2003, the year when T20 cricket first tentatively dipped its toes into the English domestic programme.

Back then, each county only played five group games and it was unknown whether the format would catch on.

It did, and how!

This year, Hampshire and all their rivals will play 14 group games each - nine more than 13 years ago.

Even the 2016 total, though, is down on previous years - 2010 the first when SIXTEEN group games were

Fidel Edwards watches on as Warwickshire pair Ian Bell and Jonathan Trott fist-bump at The Ageas Bowl.



Fidel Edwards celebrates taking the wicket of Ian Westwood. Another Warwickshire wicket falls, above.



played.

Some believed that was overkill, that too much T20 cricket could be harmful, could saturate the market.

Fourteen, therefore, is the current amount.

No doubt all the counties take T20 cricket seriously and want to do well.

I can't say if Hampshire have taken

it more seriously than many others, but they have certainly been more successful than most.

They have won the tournament twice - in 2010 and 2012 - and are the only county to have rattled off SIX successive T20 finals days appearances.

In such a keenly-contested competi-

tion, that is some record.

Ageas Bowl chairman Rod Bransgrove has made no secret of his desire to oversee the county's long awaited third championship title.

But Bransgrove is a businessman and he knows how important T20 cricket is.

*Continued on page 26*

## Major golfing disasters

JORDAN Spieth's Masters meltdown at Augusta National joined the list of memorable collapses when the heat of a major tournament is on.

Spieth coughed up six shots in three holes - including a quadruple-bogey seven at the short 12th - to lose a five-stroke lead on the final day and hand England's Danny Willett the prized green jacket.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at other on-course disasters which snatched defeat from the jaws of victory.

**SCOTT HOCH - 1989 MASTERS**

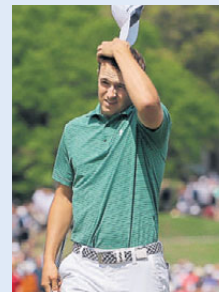
Tap in a two-foot putt and the green jacket is yours. Easy? Not quite. Hoch's worst nightmare came true at Augusta in 1989 as he slid the putt wide on the first play-off hole and handed the headline writers a present as his surname rhymed with 'choke'. Worse still, Hoch was up against Nick Faldo who, having shot a final seven-under round of 65, sank a 30-footer on the next hole to win the first of his three Masters titles.

**GREG NORMAN - 1996 MASTERS**

Spieth's blow-out had shades of Norman's spectacular fall from grace at Augusta in 1996. Norman blew a six-shot lead by the 11th hole in the final round of the Masters and finished with five bogeys and two double-bogeys for a painful 78. Faldo was lurking again to take advantage and win his third green jacket by five strokes, while Norman was never the same player again.

**JEAN VAN DE VELDE - 1999 OPEN**

Van de Velde turned the 1999 Open at Carnoustie into a French farce as he entered the final hole with a three-shot lead. The engraver had already etched Van de Velde's name on the Claret Jug as he stood on the 18th but he pushed two shots into rough before sending his third into the Barry Burn. The Frenchman took his shoes and socks off as he considered playing out of the burn, but he took the penalty and ended up taking triple-bogey and losing a play-off to Paul Lawrie.



**COLLAPSE:** Jordan Spieth



## Outrageous sporting pledges

GARY Lineker looks increasingly likely to fulfil his pledge of presenting Match of the Day in his underpants should his former team Leicester win the Barclays Premier League this season.

The ex-England captain made the promise in December and, if Claudio Ranieri's side - who are seven points clear with five games left - clinch the title, Lineker will be going through with the proposal in the first episode of next season's MOTD.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some other notable pledges in sport that were made with varying levels of embarrassment in mind.

### 1. Bernie of the Binns

Former Middlesbrough forward Bernie Slaven was forced to bare his bottom in the window of department store Binns in the town centre. The then retired Slaven made the promise on live radio in 1998 when assuming his former employers were unlikely to beat Manchester United at Old Trafford. A 3-2 win for Boro promptly followed, and Slaven's back side - complete with scoreline - adorned the shop window. Slaven fittingly summed up the process by writing on his website: "If only I had kept my big mouth shut."

### 2. Marsh's close shave



Gary Lineker has pledged to present Match of the Day in his underpants should Leicester win the title

Rodney Marsh had the honour of playing for several big teams as well as England during the 1960s and 70s. But his declaration that he would have his head shaved if Bradford managed to avoid relegation from the top flight went the wrong way in 2000. The Bantams survived and Marsh had his flowing locks taken off on the pitch at Valley Parade in front of delighted Bradford fans.

### 3. Squeaky boot time

One failed bet clearly did not deter Marsh, who in 2013 made this twitter prediction: "If #Stoke are ever the 1st match on MOTD I will drive to Stoke & personally clean every players boots....". Sure enough, Stoke secured a 3-2 win over Chelsea and went top of the show's line-up. In fairness, Marsh's act helped a noble cause, as the boots cleaned were signed by Stoke's players and auctioned for charity.

### 4. The return of the close shave

A decade after Marsh's hair-raising act, Novak Djokovic and his Serbia team were getting their shaven. The Serbians had promised to shave their heads if they secured the Davis Cup crown and, after a 3-2 win over France in December 2010, treated fans to the unique post-match celebration.

Continued on facing page

# Hants desperate for

from page 25

Hampshire could well have spent the last few years challenging for the championship title.

Even if they had, though, they would not have pulled in the sort of crowds they can for T20 matches at the stadium.

T20 is where the money is, in terms of attracting good crowds and - as a result - improved bar takings.

So, what does 2016 hold for Hampshire?

Could this be the year they challenge Yorkshire for the title?

And could this be the year they become only the second county to win three T20 competitions (Leicestershire were the first)?

History suggests the second question is more likely to provide a positive answer.

The likes of Jimmy Adams, Michael Carberry and James Vince are a top three many counties would love to possess.

Adams was top runscorer in the entire tournament when Hampshire first lifted the silverware on home soil six years ago, while Vince was the leading runscorer in last summer's event.

And Carberry remains one of English cricket's most destructive batsmen on his day.

Big things will now be expected of Liam Dawson after he won a place in England's T20 World Cup squad - amazing to now think Dawson was restricted to just two T20 outings for Hampshire in 2016 - while Sean Ervine and Adam Wheeler are capable of providing middle order runs at a fairly rapid rate.

Bowling wise, Reece Topley did not enjoy the greatest of T20 World Cups - going for 13 an over - but his arrival can only hope to improve Hampshire's chances of taking early wickets.

Chris Wood has been a T20 regular in recent years, while Fidel Edwards, Ryan McLaren, Gareth Berg and Ervine provide other seam bowling options for skipper Vince.

So does West Indian Darren Sammy, recently unveiled as the latest T20 signing last month.

The all-rounder is another explosive option, capable of changing the tone of a game in just a few overs with bat and ball.

Shahid Afridi is back for this summer, and like Sammy is pure box office.

The charismatic all-rounder made his name as a destructive batsman who could bowl spin.

As the years have gone on, he has won more matches with his bowling than he has with his batting.

Though still able to clear a bar just by walking to the crease, Afridi's T20 innings in recent times have tended to be short affairs.

It was his bowling which helped Hampshire reach the Finals Day in 2011, and that is likely to be his main weapon again five years on.

Dawson and Afridi will provide the county's slow bowling options, with Will Smith and young Mason



James Tomlinson (left) rues a missed chance as Ian Bell and Jonathan Trott add runs for Warwickshire.



Hampshire Cricket captain James Vince.

Crane also available.

Overall, that is a strong T20 squad. No-one who knows cricket can say otherwise.

It is a squad packed with experience. Packed with match-winners, too.

Bransgrove has paid out to bring the likes of Afridi and Sammy to the south coast. Big names, after all, don't come with cheap wage demands.

But, as previously mentioned, the chairman knows the importance of T20 cricket.

He has speculated to accumulate. He knows people will want to come and watch big names.

That is how professional sport works at the highest level, and cricket is certainly no different.

Getting bodies through the turnstiles is the name of the game, and that is the name of T20 cricket.

Hampshire have always embraced that concept, and while Bransgrove is at the helm it is impossible to see that changing.

No, that's wrong. I can't see that changing WHOEVER is at the

helm.

T20 is now embedded too firmly in the DNA of English domestic cricket.

It won't go away. If anything, it will only grow.

And the most successful counties will be the ones that grow with it.

Ok, that's T20 cricket dealt with. We all agree Hampshire have a highly competitive squad.

But what about the county championship?

Is it realistic to be thinking of a genuine title challenge?

Based on last summer's stats, probably not.

After all, no county collected fewer top flight bonus bowling points than Hampshire's 38 - though the most anyone picked up was 45 - while no other county collected fewer batting points either.

Hampshire managed 31 bonus batting points - the same as Warwickshire.

With that in mind, improvements are obviously needed in both batting and bowling departments.

Bowling wise, Fidel Edwards is a massive plus point.

The West Indian ended the 2015 season as Hampshire's leading Championship wicket-taker with 45 victims.

That figure is even more impressive when you consider he only played in half of the county's 16 games.

Indeed, no bowler in the top 50 wicket-takers in 2015 took their wickets quicker than Edwards - who averaged a wicket every 32.11

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# first class form



Reece Topley has been cruelly injured on his Hampshire Championship debut.

deliveries.

In contrast, the Championship's leading wicket-taker, Durham's Chris Rushworth, took his 73 wickets at an average of one every 42.3 deliveries.

Hampshire's second leading wicket-taker in the Championship's top tier last summer was Gareth Berg. The ex-Middlesex man was something of a revelation in his first season at the Ageas Bowl and ended with 42 Championship wickets – though he delivered over a thousand more balls than Edwards did for three fewer wickets.

That further underlines how important Edwards could be for the county in 2016.

Hampshire have boosted their seam bowling department with the winter arrival of Topley.

The 21-year-old, though, is more known for his white ball form than his red ball one.

He has only played six first class games for Essex since the end of the 2013 English domestic summer, mainly due to a catalogue of injuries.

Hampshire would have been hoping the 6 ft 7 in bowler – who emerged over the winter as a key member of England's 50-over side – can stay injury free.

Sadly, those hopes didn't last long – the player cruelly suffering a broken hand on the first day of his Championship debut against Warwickshire last Sunday.

That is truly horrendous luck.

Topley certainly has no wish to be considered primarily a one-day specialist.



Warwickshire celebrate after dismissing Will Smith for a duck.

Speaking recently, he said: "I still have a massive passion for first-class cricket and it would be an absolute demon hanging over me if I was labelled a one-day bowler. I like to think I'm not."

We will find out in the coming weeks and months whether Topley's wish comes true.

Hampshire also have South African seamer Ryan McLaren available for the whole of the 2016 season.

The 32-year-old was drafted in on a short-term loan towards the end of last season.

He played a central role, taking seven wickets on his Champion-

ship debut as Hampshire won at Durham before he struck a half-century in the win at Trent Bridge that secured Hampshire's Great Escape.

He certainly has good experience of English conditions, having played regularly for Kent across all competitions in 2007 and 2008 and for Middlesex in the T20 in 2011.

Batting wise, Michael Carberry was the only Hampshire player to pass the 1,000-run milestone in the Championship in 2015.

James Vince and Jimmy Adams failed to reach the 800 mark, with Will Smith the second highest run-

maker with 859.

Liam Dawson returned from his loan spell with Essex last summer in inspired form, and will take his place in a strong-looking batting line-up.

Strong looking on paper, anyway. Carberry and Smith aside, most of the top order will need to improve on their 2015 Championship figures.

The likes of Dawson, Ervine, Berg and Wheater are all capable of scoring consistently in first class cricket.

McLaren, as he showed at Nottinghamshire last September, can also contribute with the bat.

In the spinning department, Mason Crane can expect more chances to shine this summer.

The teenager was a big hit on his debut last summer, bagging 5-35 in Hampshire's amazing win against Warwickshire at Edgbaston in only his second first class appearance.

Crane's progress was no doubt a factor in Hampshire deciding to let Danny Briggs go to south coast neighbours Sussex.

Briggs played a starring role in Hampshire's two T20 wins in 2010 and 2012, but was rarely such a match-winner in the longer form of the game.

Perhaps Crane can be different. His performance at Edgbaston certainly whetted the appetite, though he was dealt a reality dose in his next outing at Somerset.

On a batsman's paradise, Crane returned 0-108 as Somerset rattled up 630.

To sum up, Hampshire have an experienced Championship squad.

Certainly one capable of doing better than they did last summer.

Manager Giles White and captain Vince will know that more than most, of course.

Their task is to ensure Hampshire start the 2016 first class season as they ended the 2015 one.

On their day, Hampshire are a match for anyone.

But then all the sides in the top division can probably say that.

The margins between success and failure are small.

But this the elite level of professional sport, and it has been ever thus.

To sum up, do I expect Hampshire to challenge – seriously challenge – for the County Championship.

No.

Do I expect them to do better than last season?

Yes.

Hampshire do not want to go down this summer, as from 2017 only one team will go up from the second tier.

The top tier is where the best players want to play, and it is where Hampshire no doubt see themselves.

The county has excelled for a few years now in the shortest form of cricket.

Now the time has come to start showing what they can do in the longest.

## Bolt from the blue...

From facing page.

### Getting shirty

Regular fans donning shirts of rival teams is nothing new. But Manchester United supporter Usain Bolt stepped it up a notch when in October 2015 he lost a bet with Mexican TV presenter and Arsenal fan Patty Lopez. The world's fastest man posted the forfeiture photos of him in a Gunners shirt on his Instagram account.

### 6. Plane and simple

Rugby being the big deal that it is in Australia and New Zealand, rival national airlines Qantas and Air New Zealand were understandably fired up for the 2015 Rugby World Cup final between the two nations. A Twitter bet was fixed thus: the crew of the losing side to don the winner's kit - this after suggestions to repaint the loser's fleet were rejected. The All Blacks defended their world crown with a 34-17 win, and the rest was history.

### 7. A diplomatic row

Australian sports minister Kate Lundy was forced to pay up after losing a bet with her British counterpart Hugh Robertson during the 2012 Olympics in London. Lundy backed the Australians to win more medals than the host nation, but ended up having to do a 1,000-metre row on Dorney Lake in a Team GB kit.



Man United fan Usain Bolt had to wear an Arsenal shirt after losing a bet

### 8. Boring, boring, board


Back to Australians and rugby, and the 2003 World Cup won by England. Former Wallabies winger David Campese ended up having to wear a sandwich board with the message "I admit, the best team won" and walk down Oxford Street in London, this after his prediction about England being a boring side.


As England captain Martin Johnson lifted the trophy following a 20-17 victory over Australia in the final, Campese was getting ready to eat humble pie.

9. In September 1973 Chile held the Soviet Union to a 0-0 draw in Moscow in the first leg of their play-off tie to qualify for the 1974 World Cup finals. The USSR then refused to play the second leg at Santiago's National Stadium in protest that the ground was being used as a jail to intern more than 12,000 prisoners.

Fifa sent inspectors who were unable to notice any of the thousands held in the underground tunnels and dressing rooms and gave the fixture the go ahead. The Soviets were unmoved and declined to play. The Chile team still lined up rather than take the 3-0 mandatory victory, scored a goal unopposed in farcical fashion, won the match and a place at the World Cup.







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## James Taylor retirement: what is AVRC?

**JAMES Taylor has been forced to retire from cricket due to a rare but serious heart condition called arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC).**

**Here, the Sports Pink takes a closer look at the condition.**

What is ARVC?

ARVC is an inherited condition, which means it is passed on through families. It is caused by a change or mutation in one or more genes - some people may inherit the genetic mutation but not develop the condition.

ARVC can affect teenagers or young adults and has been the reason for some sudden unexplained deaths in young athletes.

Are there visible symptoms?

ARVC is usually progressive and can lead to sudden death in some cases. Most people with ARVC are at low risk of sudden cardiac death but sometimes the condition is more active - characterised by unexplained dizzy spells, sustained palpitations or blackouts - and the risk is higher.

How does it affect the heart?

Cells within the heart muscle are held together by proteins, but these proteins do not develop properly in people with ARVC. This leads to the detachment of the heart muscle cells, causing fatty deposits to build up as the body attempts to repair the damage.

ARVC usually affects the right side of the heart and means the walls of one heart chamber become thin and stretched, which has an impact on how blood is pumped around the body and can cause abnormal heart rhythms.



**James Taylor who has been forced to retire due to a rare but serious genetic heart condition**

How quickly does it develop?

According to the British Heart Foundation (BHF), it usually takes many years for the condition to develop so most people are not diagnosed until later in life.

ARVC usually develops in four phases, with the first phase occurring when there are small changes in the right ventricle and the second when noticeable structural changes occur to the heart muscle that affect its ability to pump.

The third phase is when pumping becomes weaker as the right ventricle becomes stretched while in the fourth phase, the left ventricle becomes affected and the heart may pump weakly on both sides.

Can it be treated?

ARVC cannot be cured, but medicines can help control abnormal heart rhythms while a procedure called catheter ablation can help destroy malfunctioning tissue and force the heart to no longer send abnormal signals. Cardioversion - using electrical shocks to "re-set" the heart - may also be used.

Are there different types of cardiomyopathy? ARVC is one type of cardiomyopathy. Another type is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), which affects former Bolton Wanderers footballer Fabrice Muamba. He collapsed on the pitch in 2012 and was also forced to retire early. The charity Cardiac Risk in the Young says 12 young people in the UK die of undiagnosed heart defects every week.

# The times they are

**BACK in 1961, when Hampshire first won cricket's County Championship, guess how many games they played?**

Thirty two.

Thirty two three-day games equalled a maximum of 96 days of Championship cricket, *writes SIMON CARTER.*

Times have changed. Nowadays, Hampshire and their 17 first class rivals play 16 four-day games.

That's a total of 64 days of Championship cricket - 32 days fewer than in 1961. Virtually a month, therefore.

But as from the start of the 2017 English domestic season, there will be even fewer days devoted to Championship cricket.

From the start of next season, the Championship's top flight will be reduced from nine to eight teams. Division Two will increase to 10 teams.

In the top flight, all the teams will still play each other home and away - making a total of 14 games.

That's a maximum of 56 days of Championship cricket - 40 fewer than in 1961.

In the second tier they will also play 14 games - meaning that each county will only play four of the other counties once during the season, creating a slight imbalance.

That noise you can hear is the traditionalists rotating quickly in their graves.

Eight days are being lost from Championship cricket next year for one good reason - to free up the calendar for one-day cricket.

Not necessarily more one-day cricket either.

From 2017, the NatWest T20 Blast will be played in July and August rather than throughout May, June and July as it is primarily done so now.

One good reason for this change - more games will take place during the school holidays to keep attracting the younger audience that the sport desperately needs.

To start with, the Blast will retain its current format. A proposal for a two-division tournament has been rejected, but will almost certainly be revisited when the next broadcast deal comes up in 2019.

Talk of a city-based franchise league - in the same format as the Indian Premier League and the Australian Big Bash, the two most high profile club T20 tournaments in the cricket calendar - will not go away either.

As from 2017, the Royal London One-Day Cup will also be moved.

In recent years, group games have not started until July.

From 2017, they will be held in April and May with a Lord's final in July.

That is a throwback to the days of the Benson & Hedges Cup, which ran from 1975 to 2002.

Back in 1961, when Hampshire first won the County Championship, there was no one-day cricket



**Hampshire Cricket chairman Rod Bransgrove.**



**The greatest six-hitter of all-time? West Indian Chris Gayle.**

in England.

There was no one day cricket in any of the major nations.

The Gillette Cup, a 65-over-a-side tournament, debuted in 1963. It changed to 60 overs the following year and ran unchanged until the 1999 season when the amount of

overs was sliced to 50 a side.

The John Player Sunday League was introduced in 1969, and as already mentioned the Benson & Hedges Cup was introduced six years later.

When I was growing up in the early 1980s, the county programme

was easy to follow - B & H group games early on, Sunday League games on a Sunday (obviously!) from May through to September and the 60-over tournament starting in late June.

You knew where you were.

That has not always been the case

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# a changing... again



Legendary West Indian master blaster Gordon Greenidge.



Legendary West Indian batsman Viv Richards.

in recent years, and the changes being brought in next year will help to unclutter the calendar.

On a slight tangent, I was introduced to professional cricket in the early 1980s by watching my local county, Somerset.

We had the likes of Ian Botham,

Viv Richards and Joel Garner in our side, and we hoovered up one-day trophies – five between 1979 and 1983 inclusive.

We had never won any one-day trophies before 1979 and we've only won two since 1983.

If only T20 cricket had been

around at that time!

It would have been wonderful to have seen all three of those aforementioned world greats in the same T20 side.

Botham and Richards were renowned for their big hitting abilities, but the advent of T20 has put

many of their most ferocious innings firmly in the shade.

I remember Richards flaying the England attack for an unbeaten 189 in a ODI at Old Trafford in 1984.

At the time it was the highest one-day international innings ever. It contained just five sixes.

Now we have the likes of Chris Gayle routinely swatting that number most weeks.

Last year, Gayle – playing for Somerset at Taunton against Kent in the T20 – hammered a barely believable 151 not out off only 62 balls.

He smashed 15 sixes in that innings.

Viv Richards never hit that many in an innings, and he played over a decade at Taunton.

Ian Botham never hit that many sixes in an innings at Taunton either.

Gordon Greenidge, the Hampshire legend, was also known as one of the most destructive batsmen in world cricket throughout the latter part of the 70s and the 80s.

He never produced the sort of innings Chris Gayle has either.

We cannot measure the achievements of individuals from different generations, of course we can't.

We can only express our sadness that we never saw Richards, Botham and Greenidge have a go at T20. It would have been such fun to watch.

Getting back to the plot, the changes being introduced to English cricket in 2017 have been welcomed by the counties themselves.

They know the cricketing landscape in this country has changed a hell of a lot in recent years, let alone since 1961.

Hampshire chairman Rod Bransgrove spoke for many when he said: "It is absolutely necessary to cut back a little bit on the amount of County Championship cricket we're playing, in order to make sufficient space for the other competitions and for rest and recovery for players."

Surrey chief executive Richard Gould was also happy, saying: "The changes demonstrate positive progress for the game as a whole. Pushing T20 Blast back into the summer to coincide with school holidays and the best weather will help to further increase attendances."

"T20 has been very successful since 2012. Attendances at Surrey grew by 25 per cent last year alone."

"We expect a two-division format to be introduced before too long, which will allow the creation of a T20 Premier League."

Sussex chief executive Zac Toumazis added: "It's not going to suit everyone but at least we have some clarity."

"There'll be a lot of people disappointed in the reduction of Championship games but you have to look at the whole piece, not in isolation. T20 cricket is crucial to us."

Not just Sussex.

It's crucial to everyone.

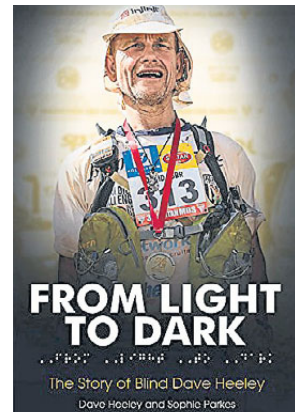
## BOOK REVIEW

From Light to Dark  
The Story of Blind Dave Heeley  
By Dave Heeley & Sophie Parkes  
Sportsbookofftheshelf.com price: £14.88  
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WHEN set in a sporting context, 'inspirational' has become an over-used adjective, an easy, if lazy description, used most frequently as a substitute for 'impressive' or 'brilliant'; 'inspirational' is several notches higher up the ethereal, core-of-the-soul level than either of these two.

From Dark to Light is a truly inspirational book; one that, once finished, inspires the reader to try, in some small way, to emulate the feats of its incredible co-author, Dave Heeley.

Although he was born sighted, Heeley was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, aged ten, a term the consultant eye specialist at Birmingham Eye Hospital clarified: "You're going blind," he confirmed. It's difficult to imagine how anyone would feel upon hearing those words, but Heeley explains that it was only later he realised his life would "have to be adapted, shifted, tamed." Yet Dave Heeley comes across as a normal, down-to-earth bloke. Despite his blindness, he became a very successful businessman; still followed West Brom; married and had a family. "Just to have 30 seconds of sight to see my daughters would be worth the world," he reflects, but this is no 'misery memoir'; Heeley accepts what he calls his 'frustrating' condition and gets on with life.



As a child, he ran and played football but was forced to abandon both; it was only later in life that he caught the running bug and, guided by friends, started tackling longer distances.

Following the successful completion of his first London marathon, he was accosted by a TV reporter who asked what it was like to run the marathon blind.

"Well," replied Dave, "I started the marathon blind; I finished it blind and knackered."

Between 2002 and 2014, he completed 12 consecutive London marathons, a period during which he began to focus on an even tougher challenge, in order to raise more money for the Guide Dogs charity. A friend told him about the ultimate test of endurance: seven marathons in seven days on seven different continents; in 2008, Dave became the first, and to date only, blind person to complete this incredible feat.

Dave Heeley ends by saying that his blindness has encouraged him "to live life to the fullest, to embrace the mad, daft and dangerous...to take nothing for granted." As Sir Ranulph Fiennes says in the book's foreword, Dave Heeley is "a true inspiration".





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For more information, please call **02380 475345** or visit [cmhcharity.org.uk/makeawill](http://cmhcharity.org.uk/makeawill). To book your will appointment, please contact the solicitor of your choice from the list below.

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Winchester	Eric Robinson	Christopher Bull	01962 897893

Kevin Dye from **Verisona Law** will be writing wills at CMH Charity on **24th & 25th May**. To book, call the charity office on **02380 475345**



Thank you to the above local firms of solicitors for supporting CMHC's Make a Will Fortnight 2016



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# Kia is the key as Saints ground the Flyers

THE Southampton Saints Girls U14 side continue to dominate the Winchester U15 league after a 2-0 win and 1-1 draw in a double header against Winchester Flyers.

Saints were without Beth Turner and Imogen Twight through various broken bones and great credit to Sian Bradbeer for even making it after only a few hours sleep following a delayed long-haul flight.

Kia Anteney scored both first-half goals in the 2-0 victory.

The same player grabbed Saints' leveller in the 1-1 draw, which ended their 100 per cent league record.

Ellie Hilton scored a hat-trick as Crofton U15s won at Oakley.

● In the Winchester & District Girls League, Southampton Saints U13s moved to the top of the U14s table following a 4-0 win at Merley - and they still have two

games in hand.

Amy Watson opened the scoring after six minutes, and Siena Milen doubled the lead 19 minutes into the second half.

Olivia Norton made it 3-0 before Millen scored a superb fourth, curling in a shot from outside the area.

Rock bottom New Milton were rewarded for all their season's hard work in matches and training with a magnificent 4-1 win

at BTC. Jessica Nock and Amy Sherred both scored twice.

● In the Winchester Girls U13 League, Worthies, Widbrook Reds and Southampton Saints U12s all managed double figure wins against Pompey Uni, St Francis Rovers and Alton respectively.

Warsash yellows trailed at half time thanks to a St Francis goal by Emma Simpson, but Shannon Morgan-Lee struck twice to turn the game on its head.

# City of Southampton Sunday Football League Rich pickings as Itchen hit Sholing for six to lift cup

**RICH Warner bagged a hat-trick as Itchen Saints thrashed Sholing United 6-1 in the final of the Southampton FA Senior Sunday Cup.**

Courtney Campbell struck twice for an Itchen side who led 4-0 at half-time, with Tony Sullivan completing the half-dozen haul. Luke Watts replied, *writes Freddie Molyneux.*

Ben Pearce was Hunters Inn' hat-trick hero as they caned Wicor Mill to lift the Hampshire FA Sunday Junior B Cup.

Two of Pearce's goals came from the penalty spot, while Tom Munday, Henry Rule and Ashley McGimsey sealed an emphatic 6-2 triumph.

There was a big game in the battle for third place in the Premier Division of the City of Southampton Sunday League.

Hamble took the lead through Amish Morjana and doubled it via a goal from Ash Lovett. KRL came out strong after the break and found the net through Mike Saunders, but Hamble held on to assure themselves of third place behind AFC West End and Sholing United.

The league leaders face each other in a mouth-watering contest on May 8 with both sides currently level on 26 points.

Bottom of the table Cricketers Arms produced a shock 3-1 win over second-placed Hedge End Athletic in the Senior Division. Mark Best, Simon Eastwood and John Cole scored for Cricketers, with Luke Merritt replying.

Test Valley Spartans finally won their first Junior Division 1 game of the season with a 3-1 verdict over Bishops. Tony Kerton, Shane Stickland and Oliver Sharpe netted with Kevin Stone replying.

Champions Chamberlayne defeated C.D.A with a lone goal from Louis Lemessieur.

A.F.C. Velmore took a huge step towards capturing a second place finish after they beat close rivals Lokomotiv Eastleigh 2-0

thanks to second half strikes from Iain Attrill and Joshua Helm.

Aldermoor United, rock bottom of Junior Division 2, crashed 5-0 to Eastpoint - Sam Cooper, David Kyle, Chris Hill, Jamie Brennan and James Erskine all scored.

Things are tight at the top of the Junior Division 3 table with four teams in contention for the title.

Fourth-placed Burley defeated third-placed AFC Waterside 2-1 thanks to a brace from George Slim.

Second-placed Bitterne Ducks overcame Portsides 5-3 with Daniel Runnalls, Nathan Turner and David Fitzpatrick replying.

The spoils were shared in the Junior Division 4 clash between Hedge End City and Sholing Monks with Dan Brook and Kieran Smith netting.

Lyndhurst JFC beat second-placed Forest Home 4-1 with doubles from Lee Stickland and Ben Hatch. Jon Phillips replied.

Shah Bani-Sadr struck a hat-trick as Bridge Manor thrashed Junior Division 5 bottom club Abbotswood 8-0.

Liam Fielder and Gary Klepp both scored twice and a penalty from Tom Webb sealed Abbotswood's fate.

There was also an impressive 3-0 win for A.F.C. Spitfires over Itchen Hawks with goals from Marcin Wrezel, David Wrezel and Neil Philpotts.

In Junior Division 6, Testwood Tornados beat AFC Carnival thanks to a Marek Szalajako goal.

AFC Hedge End Town overcame Bishop Waltham Dynamos 3-1 with goals from Pat Williams, Callum Parker and Macuall Smith. Jack Bennett replied.

Title challengers Wimsor defeated Chamberlayne Athletic Reserves 2-1 with goals from Brett Withey and Charlie Plumbley.

Riverside Rangers drew 1-1 with bottom side F.C. Woolston, who scored through Bradley Clark.



Gary Klepp, right, hit a double for Bridge Manor in their 8-0 win over Abbotswood

## 'Mister' a good read

**Mister**

**By Rory Smith**

*Sportsbookofthe month.com price: £12.99 saving £6.00 on rrp*

MORE than a decade ago, Norman Fox wrote a critically acclaimed book about an accomplished and hugely successful football coach named Jimmy Hogan called *Prophet or Traitor?*

Though Hogan enjoyed considerable success, particularly as coach of Hungary's 'Magical Magyars' who trounced England 6-3 at Wembley in 1953, the book was a commercial failure, ostensibly because few readers had heard of Hogan.

Rory Smith's *Mister*, the tale of the "men who taught the world how to beat England at their own game", takes up Fox's baton, name-checking him frequently in this fascinating story of a wide range of British football coaches who have tried their hand abroad.

As anyone who has ever worked overseas for a prolonged period will tell you, travel broadens the mind, a point made by Roy Hodgson in this book's thoughtful introduction. The observation is true of every profession and includes, as Smith points out, an eclectic collection of Britons capable of spreading the football word to every corner of the globe.

Smith's book is stuffed full with marvellous anecdotes and recounts a conversation between Sir Richard Turnbull, the penultimate governor of Aden, and Denis Healy, then Britain's defence secretary, which took place in the mid-1960s.

"When the British Empire finally sinks beneath the waves," Turnbull told Healy, "it will leave behind only two monuments: the game of association football and the expression '\*\*\*\* off'."

How prescient Turnbull's words proved to be. The men responsible for Britain's long-lasting sporting (rather than verbal) legacy included trail-blazers such as former Blackburn Rovers player Fred Pentland who, following a prolonged spell as a PoW in World War I, went on to become one of Atletico Bilbao's greatest managers.

Ex-Nottingham Forest footballer Alf Spencer took charge of Barcelona in 1923 where he was credited with urging his charges to play the ball on the ground; Jesse Carver enjoyed success in Italy before returning to coach Coventry City and George Raynor took Sweden to the World Cup Final in 1958 but struggled to find a managerial post upon his return to England. Two years after losing the 1958 final to Brazil, Raynor was applying for a job as a storeman at the Butlins holiday camp. As the number of British coaches active in professional football falls, this book reminds us of how we could do with a Jimmy Hogan or George Raynor.







Southampton Saints Girls U13s

# Sub Sienna is White hot!

## Reserves hit form

**SUB Sienna White struck twice as Southampton Saints Ladies completed their inaugural FA Premier Women's Reserves League South campaign with a 3-0 home win over Chichester.**

White replaced Lucy Pearce 20 minutes into the second half and within five minutes had opened the scoring.

White doubled the advantage by convertin a Nicky Curtis cross and top scorer Elle Pearce wrapped up the victory - and Saints' seventh place finish - late on.

● In the Hampshire Women's County League, leaders Warsash defeated Alton 2-0 with two goals from Emma-Jane May taking her tally to a remarkable 16 from just seven matches.

Third placed AFC Boscombe could only manage a 1-1 draw with Widbrook.

At the foot of the table, struggling AFC Stoneham lost 2-1 to Rushmoor.

In Division 2, QK Southampton played out a double header against Gosport - losing both games.

Second placed AFC Bournemouth scraped past Kingsclere thanks to a first half goal from Gillian Reynolds. Bournemouth Sports' title hopes were dealt a serious blow after only managing a 1-1 draw at Horndean, Sarah Bulley scoring for the hosts.

Undefeated AFC Portchester hammered Portsmouth A 16-0 in Division 3 with four goals apiece for Michelle Niven and Charmaine True. Nadine Green (3) and Sophie Frost (2) also netted.

● The Southern Region Premier league doesn't contain any local sides but its worth noting for next season that Basingstoke Town could win promotion to the FA Women's Premier League SW and face Southampton Saints Ladies - as they meet the minimum league requirements.



Sienna White is congratulated by Emma King on scoring against Chichester.



Kate Early in action against Chichester.



Tiff Eley in action for Saints Reserves.

In the lower tier of the Southern Region Women's league, leaders Chesham's promotion to the Southern Region Premier were dealt a serious blow after a draw at Wycombe.

Second placed Southampton Women took full advantage with a 4-1 win over Tower Hill - Kirsty Bell scoring all her side's goals.

Team Solent won 5-0 at Fleet Town. In the North Hants Cup, Winchester beat Andover 5-0 with two goals from former Southampton Saints striker Louisa Castle. Cutler, Thornton and Moss also scored.

● In the Winchester Girls League there was a rare scare for Southampton Saints U16s as they faced Bishops

Waltham. They went a goal down to an Abigail Woollett effort, but roared back to win 9-1.

In the Winchester & District U16 Cup, Justine Hammond netted a hat-trick for Warsash Wasps Yellow. They are joined in the next round by Southampton Saints, Merley and Mudeford.

Relive '66 finals as if they were happening today

**From Light to Dark  
66: The World Cup  
In Real Time**

**By Ian Passingham**

*Sportsbookofthe  
month.com price:  
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rtp*

AS SOMEONE who is (just) old enough to remember the World Cup finals of 1966, there are several moments that still stand out in the memory.

Of course, the tournament's political and economic backdrop meant little to a seven-year-old football fanatic, but I vividly recall the excitement caused by 'valiant' North Korea beating Italy 1-0 at Ayresome Park with a goal from Pak Doo-ik.

Elsewhere on the list of 1966 memories is the pitched battle between England and Argentina; Eusebio beating North Korea almost single-handed at Goodison Park; Pelé being kicked out of the tournament by Portugal; Bobby Charlton scoring twice in the semi-finals and, of course, Nobby Stiles dancing around Wembley with the trophy.

Given that those of us sporting more grey hairs than we ever thought possible will have similar memories, it's a surprise that no-one has thought to fill in the gaps by reminding us of what else was going on as just 16 nations competed for the trophy.

Author Ian Passingham, a journalist, has pieced together the equivalent of short newspaper reports to recreate the build-up and the tournament itself as though we were reading about events in real time. For the most part, the idea works, although many of the headlines leave plenty to be desired.

Reading these short articles, however, it's possible to glean some insight into prevailing attitudes.

There was, for example, a

clear lack of presumption on the

part of the North Koreans. Their

management only began looking

for hotel accommodation prior to

their final group match against

Italy in case they made the

quarter finals.

Television companies clearly

had zero influence: all four

quarter finals were played on the

same day - and each kicked

off at 3pm. Moreover, the

organisers announced that, in

the event of one of the matches

finishing level after extra time,

the teams would draw lots to see

who went through to the semis.

Footballers' parents had no

sense of entitlement: Bobby

Charlton senior clocked on for

his normal night shift at

Ashington Colliery while both of

his sons played in the semi final

against Portugal; fortunately, he

was able to watch them 'live' in

the final - but only because it

was played on a Saturday.



66 Real Time cover



# SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

## Barclays Premier League

<b>Chelsea</b> .....E	<b>Man City</b> .....E
<b>Everton</b> .....1	<b>SAINTS</b> .....1
Funes Mori 68	Mane 76
HT 0-0	
<b>Man Utd</b> .....1	<b>A. Villa</b> .....0
Rashford 32	
HT 1-0	
<b>Newcastle</b> .....3	<b>Swansea</b> .....0
Lascelles 41	Att 75,411
Sissoko 82	
Townsend 89	
HT 1-0	
<b>Norwich</b> .....0	<b>Sunderland</b> .....3
	Borini 41 pen
	Defoe 53
	Watmore 90
HT 0-1	Att 27,117
<b>W.B.A.</b> .....0	<b>Watford</b> .....1
	Watson 27
HT 0-1	

<b>Doncaster</b> .....3	<b>Wigan</b> .....1
Butler 50,54	Grigg 41
Williams 88 pen	
HT 0-1	
<b>Fleetwood Town</b> .....1	<b>Oldham</b> .....1
Scougall 67	Kelly 77
HT 0-0	Att 3,889
<b>Gillingham</b> .....0	<b>Port Vale</b> .....2
	Leitch-Smith 19
	Dickinson 21
	Att 5,887
HT 0-2	
<b>Rochdale</b> .....3	<b>Blackpool</b> .....0
Eastham 45	
Burney 50	
Mendez-Laing 60	
HT 1-0	
<b>Shrewsbury</b> .....1	<b>Bradford</b> .....1
Alpa Akpro 84	Proctor 71
HT 0-0	Att 6,247
<b>Swindon</b> .....0	<b>Bury</b> .....1
	Mayor 63
	Att 6,759
HT 0-0	
<b>Walsall</b> .....1	<b>Southend</b> .....0
Huwila 88	
HT 0-0	

## Scottish Cup Semi-Final

<b>Hibernian</b> .....0	<b>Dundee Utd</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 19,651
AET: Score after 90 mins 0-0, Hibernian win 4-2 on penalties.	
<b>Ladbrokes Scottish Ch'ship</b>	
<b>Alloa</b> .....2	<b>Queen Sth</b> .....2
Flannigan 37 pen	Lyle 67 pen
McManus 76	Hilson 85
HT 1-0	Att 512
<b>Dumbarton</b> .....E	<b>Raith</b> .....E
<b>St Mirren</b> .....3	<b>Morton</b> .....1
Shankland 7	Johnstone 59
Gallagher 62	
Mallan 90	
HT 1-0	
	Att 4,299

<b>EASTLEIGH</b> .....2	<b>Altrincham</b> .....0
Reason 59	
Coulson 70	Att 2,034
HT 0-0	
<b>Forest Grm</b> .....1	<b>Woking</b> .....2
Moore 10	Carr 69 pen
	Norman 90
	Att 1,605
HT 1-0	
<b>Gateshead</b> .....2	<b>Braintree Town</b> .....3
Clark 13	Miles 4,16
Whitmore 64	Brundle 48
HT 1-2	Att 588
<b>Kidderminster</b> .....0	<b>Barrow</b> .....0
HT 0-0	
<b>Macclesfield</b> .....1	<b>Guiseley</b> .....0
Lewis 76	
HT 0-0	
<b>Southport</b> .....2	<b>Lincoln City</b> .....2
Bishop 44	McDaid 45
Allen 86	Wood 89
HT 1-1	Att 961
<b>Tranmere</b> .....1	<b>Wrexham</b> .....2
Norwood 78 pen	Jackson 15
	Newton 85
	Att 7,541

	P	W	D	L	F	A	H	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Leicester	33	10	5	1	26	15	11	4	2	31	16	72		
Tottenham	33	10	5	2	33	12	8	6	2	27	13	65		
Arsenal	32	9	3	3	23	10	8	5	4	32	23	59		
Man City	32	11	1	5	41	19	6	5	4	17	14	57		
Man Utd	33	10	4	2	21	7	6	4	7	19	23	56		
West Ham	32	7	2	27	19	9	6	6	4	25	21	52		
<b>SAINTS</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>51</b>		
Liverpool	31	6	6	3	24	19	7	3	6	26	23	48		
Stoke	33	7	3	6	19	18	6	5	6	18	25	47		
Chelsea	32	5	7	4	29	24	6	4	6	20	18	44		
Everton	33	4	5	8	30	29	5	9	2	23	15	41		
Watford	33	5	5	7	15	15	6	3	7	17	22	41		
Bournemouth	33	5	4	7	20	27	6	4	7	20	28	41		
W.B.A.	33	6	4	7	19	22	4	6	6	12	18	40		
Swansea	34	7	5	5	16	18	3	5	5	16	21	40		
Crystal P	33	5	3	10	17	22	5	5	5	18	20	38		
Norwich	34	5	5	7	22	27	3	2	12	13	33	31		
Sunderlnd	33	4	5	7	17	18	3	4	10	22	39	30		
Newcastle	33	5	6	5	25	22	2	1	14	10	39	28		
A. Villa	34	2	4	11	12	31	1	3	13	11	31	26		

## SkyBet Championship

<b>Birmingham</b> .....1	<b>Burnley</b> .....2
Maghoma 55	Boyd 31
	Gray 77
HT 0-1	Att 19,151
<b>Blackburn</b> .....0	<b>Huddersfield</b> .....2
	Att 15,061
HT 0-1	
<b>Bolton</b> .....1	<b>Middlesbrough</b> .....2
Vela 61	Rhodes 73,90
HT 0-0	Att 18,196
<b>Brentford</b> .....1	<b>Bristol City</b> .....1
Hogan 90	Tomlin 45
HT 0-1	Att 12,071
<b>Cardiff</b> .....0	<b>Q.P.R.</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 27,874
<b>Charlton</b> .....0	<b>Derby County</b> .....1
	Russell 60
HT 0-0	Att 15,857
<b>Leeds United</b> .....3	<b>Reading</b> .....2
Diagouraga 48	Hector 39
Wood 69,85	Rakels 81
HT 0-1	Att 20,881
<b>Preston</b> .....1	<b>M.K. Dons</b> .....1
Beckford 6	Maynard 54
HT 1-0	Att 10,457
<b>Rotherham</b> .....0	<b>Nottm Forest</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 11,503
<b>Sheff Wed</b> .....1	<b>Ipswich</b> .....1
Forester 42	Dozzill 71
HT 1-0	Att 25,082

HT 0-0		HOME										AWAY										Att 5,732
	P	W	D	L	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wigan	42	13	6	2	34	12		9	8	4	38	27	80			9	8	4	38	27	80	
Burton Albion	42	11	7	2	29	14		11	1	9	22	21	77			11	1	9	22	21	77	
Walsall	41	9	5	6	25	23		12	6	3	35	19	74			12	6	3	35	19	74	
Bradford	42	12	5	4	26	16		8	6	7	22	23	71			8	6	7	22	23	71	
Millwall	42	11	3	7	30	22		9	6	6	34	25	69			9	6	6	34	25	69	
Gillingham	42	13	4	4	38	19		6	7	8	28	29	69			6	7	8	28	29	69	
Barnsley	42	10	3	8	32	22		10	3	8	31	29	66			10	3	8	31	29	66	
Rochdale	42	12	4	5	38	22		6	6	9	24	31	64			6	6	9	24	31	64	
Sheff Utd	42	11	3	7	37	27		6	8	7	24	26	62			6	8	7	24	26	62	
Scunthorpe	42	10	6	5	25	14		7	5	9	28	32	62			7	5	9	28	32	62	
Port Vale	43	11	7	3	31	19		6	4	12	21	32	62			6	4	12	21	32	62	
Coventry	42	10	6	5	37	23		6	6	9	24	23	60			6	6	9	24	23	60	
Southend	42	10	5	6	30	24		6	6	9	25	31	59			6	6	9	25	31	59	
Peterboro	42	8	4	9	37	34		9	2	10	36	32	57			9	2	10	36	32	57	
Bury	42	9	8	4	32	24		6	4	11	19	39	57			6	4	11	19	39	57	
Swindon	42	8	4	9	35	36		6	5	10	22	32	51			6	5	10	22	32	51	
Chesterfield	42	5	5	11	32	38		9	2	10	22	28	49			9	2	10	22	28	49	
Oldham	42	6	5	10	24	33		4	13	4	18	20	48			4	13	4	18	20	48	
Fleetwood Tn42	8	7	6	31	20	3		7	7	11	18	32	47			7	7	11	18	32	47	
Shrewsbury	41	5	5	11	25	33		7	6	7	25	33	47			7	6	7	25	33	47	
Blackpool	43	8	5	9	22	20		4	4	13	17	34	45			4	4	13	17	34	45	
Doncaster	42	6	6	9	25	24		4	5	12	19	36	41			4	5	12	19	36	41	
Colchester	42	4	9	8	31	38		5	2	14	22	53	38			5	2	14	22	53	38	
Crewe	42	3	6	12	21	38		3	6	12	21	40	30			3	6	12	21	40	30	

## SkyBet League Two

<b>AFC Wimbledon</b> .....1	<b>Crawley</b> .....0
Robinson 83	Att 4,356
HT 0-0	
<b>Accrington Stanley</b> .....2	<b>Morecambe</b> .....2
Windass 21,48 pen	Miller 12
	Barkhuizen 79
	Att 2,609
HT 1-0	
<b>Bristol Rovers</b> .....2	<b>Yeovil</b> .....1
Gaffney 42	Lita 73
Taylor 77	
HT 1-0	Att 10,264
<b>Cambridge</b> .....0	<b>Carlisle</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 5,806
<b>Exeter</b> .....0	<b>Northampton</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 5,077
<b>Hartlepool</b> .....2	<b>York</b> .....1
Woods 72	Cameron 45
Thomas 24	
HT 1-1	Att 4,781
<b>Leyton Orient</b> .....3	<b>Dagenham</b> .....2
Simpson 3,45	Coulson 59
Gundoulllet 65	Dikamona 60
HT 2-0	Att 5,696
<b>Mansfield</b> .....5	<b>Notts County</b> .....0
Green 6,60	
Chapman 57	
Lambie 67, Rose 83	
HT 1-0	Att 6,357
<b>Oxford United</b> .....2	<b>Luton</b> .....3
Hylton 2	Piggott 44,58
Dunkley 51	Lee 45
HT 1-2	Att 8,838
<b>POMPEY</b> .....1	<b>Plymouth</b> .....2
Smith 37	Matt 86
	Wylde 86
	Att 18,423
HT 1-0	
<b>Stevenage</b> .....2	<b>Newport County</b> .....1
Mullarney 9	McDonald 11
O'Connor 33	Att 2,673
HT 2-0	
<b>Wycombe</b> .....1	<b>Barnet</b> .....2
Hayes 58	Yiadom 72
HT 0-0	Att 3,715

## SkyBet League One

<b>Burton Albion</b> .....0	<b>Barnsley</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 4,858
<b>Chesterfield</b> .....0	<b>Sheff Utd</b> .....3
	Baptiste 4, Adams 35
	Sharp 59
	Att 9,402
HT 0-2	
<b>Colchester</b> .....1	<b>Peterborough</b> .....4
Moncur 76	Taylor 2, Fox 67
	Coulthirst 69
	Maddison 90
HT 0-1	Att 5,365
<b>Coventry</b> .....2	<b>Millwall</b> .....1
Fleck 61, Tudgey 70	Webster 19
HT 0-1	Att 11,632
<b>Crewe</b> .....2	<b>Scunthorpe</b> .....3
Turton 15	Williams 43,75
Haber 79	Adelakin 64
HT 1-1	Att 3,852

Hibernian	32	11	3	1	28	13	7	3	7	22	19	60
Raith	33	10	3	4	29	17	6	4	6	17	25	55
Morton	34	7	3	7	17	19	4	6	7	22	24	42
St Mirren	34	5	5	7	22	26	6	3	8	19	23	41
Queen Sth	34	7	4	6	24	25	4	2	11	19	28	39
Dumbarton	32	7	3	6	22	30	2	3	11	8	27	33
Livingston	33	2	6	8	13	18	5	1	11	22	29	28
Alloa	34	1	5	11	11	34	3	2	12	9	36	19

## Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 1

<b>Albion R.</b> .....0	<b>Cowdenbth.</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 356
<b>Brechin</b> .....5	<b>Peterhead</b> .....1
Jackson 5	Blackley 30
Thomson 21,45,66	
Watt 42	
HT 4-1	Att 481
<b>Forfar</b> .....0	<b>Airdrieonians</b> .....2
	McGowan 10
	Lithgow 10
	Att 577
HT 0-2	
<b>Stenhousemuir</b> .....0	<b>Ayr Utd</b> .....4
	Donald 1
	Moore 47
	Preston 79 pen,88
	Att 652
HT 0-1	
<b>Stranraer</b> .....4	<b>Dunfermline</b> .....1
McGuigan 49	McKay 35
Malcolm 82,86	
Stirling 68	
HT 0-1	Att 545

	HOME						AWAY						
Dunfrmlne	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Peterhead	34	11	4	2	34	15	12	3	2	38	12	76	
Ayr Utd	34	9	6	2	39	16	7	5	5	33	26	59	
Stranraer	34	11	2	4	38	19	7	2	8	23	25	58	
Albion R.	34	7	2	8	20	25	7	4	6	22	23	48	
Airdrieonians	34	6	5	6	22	19	5	5	7	12	22	43	
Cowdenbth	34	4	5	8	16	21	8	2	7	26	29	43	
Stenishmuir	34	6	3	7	26	25	4	3	10	19	43	39	
Brechin	34	6	3	8	24	39	4	4	9	18	37	37	
Forfar	34	7	4	6	28	24	3	2	12	16	34	36	
Forfar	34	5	3	9	23	26	3	7	7	22	29	34	



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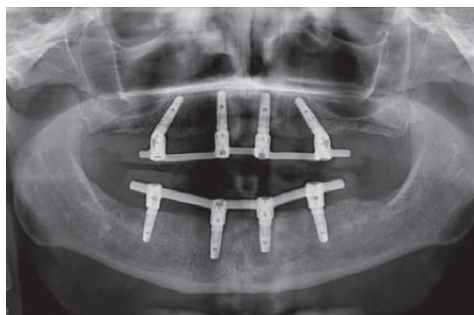
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